

Check Your Bags At The Gate

Psalm 56:4- In God, whose word I praise— in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

With all of relationships, once a common bond is no longer present, the relationship will tend to deteriorate.

2 Corinthians 6:14 instructs believers not to marry unbelievers: Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? If you want to maintain lasting, stable relationships, they must be **Christ-centered**.

All good relationships start with Christ and have him at the center.

In order for us to move forward sometimes we have to fix things of the past. You've been putting Band-Aids on wounds that needed **some spiritual medicine** in order for proper healing.

John 15:11 - Jesus said, *"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"*.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - ¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are directed to live by the Spirit and put off the acts of sinful nature and seek the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19 – 26 says, the acts of the sinful nature are obvious; sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Here are 4 tips to help You get right with God.

1. Ask God to forgive you

- a. How great is God's forgiveness? In Psalms 103:8 – 12 says, the Lord is compassionate and gracious; slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger for ever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are both the earth, **so great is the love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

2. Really forgive yourself and let things go!

The greatest comfort in the world can be found in God's promise to forgive all of our sins, no matter how bad. It doesn't matter what we've done; if we confess our sins to God and repent, He will forgive us. Mark 3:28²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter.

3. Ask God to help you forgive others
 - a. 2nd Corinthians 2:7 – 8 we must forgive and restore one who has sinned against us.

4. Try to make right all you're wrongs (**while you still can**)
 - a. Whenever we forgive others, we outwit Satan. 2 Corinthians 2:10 – 11. If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And when I have forgiven – if there was anything to forgive – I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, **in order that Satan might not outwit us**. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Don't allow wounds in your life to affect how we are supposed to be and what we're supposed to be doing for the kingdom. **Let no Bitter root grow**. Heb:12-15 says, See to it that no one misses the grace of GOD and that no Bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Let's today remove these items from our baggage;

Here are some characteristics of a person who feels rejected. **He or she:**

1. Has a critical spirit of self and others
2. Has difficulty loving others
3. Experiences feelings of inferiority
4. Is overly attentive to material things
5. Is prone to perfectionism
6. Dwells in anger and bitterness
8. Expresses an attitude of superiority
9. Is easily hurt
10. Is suspicious of friendly gestures
11. Likes or Lives in self isolation
12. Often feels depressed and angry
13. Feels cheated out of life

We need to learn to **believe in the truth about God's love and rest in the peace of His acceptance.**

Rom. 8:28 - We must believe that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him".