

b) Truth is essential for restoration.

c) Teaching and healing the lame beggar (Acts 4:1-2)

C. In Community

i. Galatians 6:1

ii. Colossians 3:16

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Paul tells the Corinthians to strive for full restoration. Why do we need to do this in the church?
- How do Romans 1:18-19 and 3:9-18 reveal the human condition from which the gospel restores us? How does it effect your reading of these texts to read *injustice* in stead of *unrighteousness* or *wickedness*? Or *justice* in place of *righteousness*?
- How does the cross demonstrate an upside-down (to this world) means of dealing with the violence and injustices of this world?
- Can you think of times when you've experienced (either personally, or have observed in others) this restoration of broken humans into the image of God in which they were originally made? Describe.
- According to 2 Cor. 13:9, what is vital in our striving for restoration?
- Discuss the quotes by Barth and Wells on petitionary prayer. How are these seen in the parable of Luke 18:1-8?
- Why are both teaching and community (one another) necessary means of striving for full restoration?
- Why is involvement in a community group like going on an excursion for the revolution against the fallenness of the world?
- Imaginatively and prayerfully consider how you might bring restoration into the lives of others as fishers of people.

Strive for Full Restoration!

Jerry Cisar — January 27, 2019

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Introduction: What are We Striving for?

I. Restoration and the Goal of the Gospel

A. Humanity needs restoration.

i. Paul describes the condition of the world, the conditions to which the gospel is the answer.

a) Romans 1:18-19

b) Romans 3:9-18

➤ Isa. 59:8

➤ Jew and Gentile alike live in conditions of verbal assault and lying, violence, injustice and a lack of peace.

➤ *Is it any wonder that the Kingdom of God is about justice, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17)*

ii. The justification of God brought through the gospel sets all of this right.

Michael Gorman: "If justification is supposed to repair the human condition, then justification must address injustice, including violence. That is, justification must do something about injustice by making liberation from practices of injustice possible and practices of justice attainable."

Romans 1:16-18 (Gorman's translation): *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the **saving justice** of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is **just** ... will live by faith."¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **injustice** of those who by their injustice suppress the truth."*

- iii. God came into a violent world and solved this human problem, not by enacting violence against us, but by receiving violence from us... absorbing our violence.

B. Restoration is applying redemption in a broken, fallen world.

II. The Meaning of Restoration

- A. It is a work of mending and rebuilding lives.
 - i. Mending or repairing nets (Matthew 4:21).
 - ii. It is used in Ezra/Nehemiah for the restoration of the temple, the repairs that were done on the walls of Jerusalem—where the wall had been torn down.
- B. The world and the wicked work against us as we work.
 - i. Psalm 11:2-3 LXE *"For they [the wicked] have pulled down what thou didst **frame (restore)**...."*
 - ii. The power of sin keeps pulling everything in one direction, we keep working in another.

III. The Means of Restoration

- A. Prayer
 - i. 2 Corinthians 13:9

Karl Barth: *"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."*

- ii. Luke 18:1-8

David Wells: *"What, then, is the nature of petitionary prayer? It is, in essence, rebellion—rebellion against the world in its fallenness, the absolute and undying refusal to accept as normal what is pervasively abnormal."*

- iii. We cannot do the work of restoration on our own.

Wells: *"...petitionary prayer only flourishes where there is a twofold belief: first, that God's name is hallowed too irregularly, his kingdom has come too little, and his will is done too infrequently; second, that God himself can change this situation."*

Wells: *"Why, then, do we pray so little for our local church? ... The answer, quite simply, is that we don't believe it will make any difference. We accept, however despairingly, that the situation is unchangeable, that what is will always be."*

- B. Teaching
 - i. Matt. 28:18-20 The great commission is about the restoration of God as King.
 - ii. Matthew 4:23; 9:35
 - a) Jesus' teaching and restoration ministry is the prototype for the church's.