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**WHERE THERE IS NO CHARITY, BRIDGES WILL BURN**

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The Most High has allowed us to repent and repair our relationship with him. Therefore, we should grant forgiveness to one another and allow others the chance to repair damage they've caused with us.

### Striving to Stay in the Spirit

**1 Corinthians 13:4-6** Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

What is Charity: Kindness and tolerance in judging others. Consideration, compassion and tenderness.

When attempting to repair a relationship (bridge) we are often dealing with emotions, pride and pain. Carnal vs Spiritual Woman is the battle we are faced with.

Bridges are burned because there was a buildup. It doesn't just happen. This class will provide tools to help the offender and the offended to continue the proving process

### STEPS TO TAKE FOR THE OFFENDER

- There is the offended and the offender
- The offender usually doesn't know that they have offended you.
- We all have a goal to get to the Kingdom. We get the goal by applying scriptures.

#### Step 1: Don't let it linger. Take the first step [**Matthew 18**]

- Don't become offensive. You can't become offended if they are offended
- Put your pride to the side

**Matthew 5:44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

- Give each other time to cool down if needed
- Treat them how you would want to be treated
- Regardless if you feel offended or not, TMH COMMANDS us to treat each other in a loving way.

**Matthew 5:24** Be reconciled with your brother/sister before you pray

**Psalms 111:10** Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

- We all are trying to get the Kingdom
- You have to see Christ in the other person in order to repair damage
- You don't know who people are in the spirit.

**Proverbs 18:19** A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

- It is so hard to come back from an offense. People put their guards up when they've been hurt. Consider your speech and your body language when having these conversations.
- Bars of a castle = when you put up a defense mechanism to keep from getting hurt again.
- Be sincere in body language and speech. Here are some tips on positive and negative body language

#### A. Body positioning and eye contact

- Arms crossed and no eye contact means you don't want to hear what's being said. It can come off as disrespectful
- Point your feet towards the speaker. Unfold your arms to take away the barrier. Make eye contact so the person knows you're there with them.

#### B. Hand movements and tone of voice

- Be careful with how you point your fingers and hands. It can be perceived as aggressive.
- If you talk with your hands, try to slow down in your speech. It will also slow down your hand movements.
- Use a neutral warm tone of voice. Your tone can change the spirit. For example, when you listen to music, it can calm you or hype you [Proverbs 15:1](#) A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

#### C. Facial Expressions

- When your face is scrunched up, it shows you don't want to hear it. This is not a good way to show understanding and openness.
- Practice in the mirror. Fix your face. 😊
- Nod your head when someone is talking to you to show you're listening.

#### Step 2: Admit you're wrong – acknowledge it

- Pride keeps us from admitting we are wrong
- Say sorry – do not take these words for granted
- Ask for forgiveness – acknowledgement must be verbal for most of us

**Video Skit:** Showed example of lack of charity (not sharing recipes with sisters, not sharing head wrap tutorials, not assisting when you see another sister struggling)

#### Video Analysis

**Take #1** - Sister with recipe – showing vain glory

**Take #2** - Sister with headwrap – just plain lying

**Take #3** - Sister gossiping on the phone – gossiping and lying

**Take #4** – Sister trying to leave with bags and children –  
lack of compassion, note of complaint

Step 3: Apologize - Be specific about what your apologizing for

Definition of repair: To fix damage, mend, restore, revive, renew and revitalize.

- Pride keeps you from making the first step. This society has taught us to want to win and be right all the time. We can't do that in the truth. Be woman enough to admit when you're wrong

Philippians 2:3 take a step back and esteem others higher than yourself.

### Step 3: Say Sorry

- "I'm sorry" is powerful. Some people need to hear the words in order to move on. Don't deny them what they're feeling

Hebrew 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

You won't see the lord otherwise. You will not get the Kingdom if you do not fix it.

Hebrew 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled

Definition of Diligent: constant effort to accomplish something; attentive and persistent in doing anything

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offends not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

All of us are guilty of offending. When you know you have offended, you should go the extra mile

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin

- A big part of showing sincerity is listening
- Be specific and state what you've done. Take responsibility
- State what you've done. Not just "I'm sorry"
- For example:
  - "Sis, here is what I've done..."
  - "I take responsibility for..."
  - "I apologize for saying..."

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath

### Listening Effectively

Definition of Effective listening – actively absorb information, show you're interested, and provide feedback so the other person knows it was received.

- Remember a time when someone listened to you. Remember how good that felt and give the person who has offended you the same courtesy.
- Other times we don't listen is when they say something we don't like. We interrupt them.

- Repeat back to them what they said to prove you were listening

**Psalms. 34:13-14** Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. 14

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

If you have offended someone, that is their truth. We come from different backgrounds. Their perception is their reality

#### **Step 4: Ask for forgiveness**

- Apologizing is a form of repenting

Definition of Repentance: the activity of reviewing one's actions and feeling guilt or regret for a past wrong followed by a commitment to change and do better. A feeling of responsibility for doing wrong.

- Commit to change for the better.

**1 Kings 8:47** if they bethink themselves. . . repent and make supplication

Think about what offended them so you can repent for it.

#### **3 A's**

Admit \* Acknowledge \* Ask

**1 Kings 8:49 - 50** <sup>49</sup> Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place and maintain their cause. <sup>50</sup> And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

We must go through steps to get forgiveness

**1 John 4:20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

How can you repent to TMH and not reconcile with your brother who you physically see?

**Acts 3:19** repent and be converted.

We make sacrifices to TMH by changing our ways.

**Matthew 5:23-25** If you bring your gift to the altar and remember your brother has something against you, leave it there and go make things right

Before you sacrifice with TMH, fix the situation with your brother

#### **STEPS TO TAKE FOR THE OFFENDED**

- The Offended must also soul search within

### Step 1: Don't over analyze

**Ephesians 4:26** Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

- When you are offended, will you apply the scriptures or act out of emotions? Do not overreact
- Don't make assumptions about the other person
- Even if you "think" you have offended someone, go and make sure!!

### Step 2: Don't overreact

**Sirach 3:24** Many deceived by own vain opinions. Evil suspicion overthrows your judgement

- Your opinions will deceive you.
- Satan will use your mind as his playground
- Offenders actions may not be intentional
- Examine yourself. Did they do anything to me?

Definition of Assume: Supposing something is true without having actual evidence

**1 Timothy 6:4** He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

- This is the corrupt and unrepentant mind
- This is what evil surmising will lead to

Evil Surmising = Supposing that something is true without any evidence to support it.

**\*\*You are in danger of judgement by doing this\*\***

**Matthew 5:22** angry with your brother without a cause

Challenge the negative emotions

**Proverbs 19:11** The discretion of a man deferreth his anger

Definition of Discretion: the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offense or revealing private information.

- Sometimes the pain we feel when we're offended will cause us to lash out and we end up offending the other person.
- The offence will show in your language and behavior
- Stay on topic. All other offences will come to you in the heat of the moment.
- Be able to go to the person in discretion.

**Proverbs 18:19** A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle

- Once you're offended, your walls are built high. When you're trying to reconcile, understand it will take work to fix it.
- It is harder to win back a sister when offended
- Try not to overreact when you're offended

- Do not blame the person, examine the situation, then correct.

**James 1:19-20** <sup>19</sup> Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: <sup>20</sup> For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

**Definition of Strife** – Anger or bitter disagreement. Conflict, discord, disharmony, division, friction and war.

“An angry man tells no lies”

**James 3:16-17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

- Comparing/contrasting – when there is strife, sin is lurking.
- If you do not take the proper steps in resolving an issue, it will turn into bitterness
- Strive for Fruits of The Spirit towards one another

**Strife Example:** Saul’s feelings towards David

**Matthew 5:9** – **Blessed are the Peacemakers**

Example: David’s unwillingness to bring harm to Saul even though King Saul was out to kill David.

**James 5:16** - <sup>16</sup> Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Confess your faults to one another and pray for each another.

### Step 3: Allow the other person to apologize

- Listen even if you weren’t offended. Have open body language because it shows the integrity of the other person and a willingness to work on themselves.
- If you are not in the right spirit when they come to you, tell them that you can talk another time.
- At the end of each day, recap your actions, thoughts and speech
- Be sure to have open body language

Pray and ask for a Spirit of discernment **Sirach 6:22, 27-28** so that you know how to respond/answer. Take things one day at a time. Speak with grace. **Colossians 4:6** let our speech be seasoned with salt so you’ll know how to answer

**Sirach 6:23, 27-28** Search, and seek, and she shall be made known unto thee: and when thou hast got hold of her, let her not go

- It’s not a light thing when you receive wisdom from TMH
- Take things step by step and day by day

**Abstain from strife – it IS a conscious decision!**

Step 4: Examine Yourself

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Sirach 28:7-8

Take in consideration...hmmm should you be offended?

Wink at ignorance. 

1 King 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

James 1:5 Lack wisdom, ask of God

- Pray and ask TMH for a spirit of discernment
- Ask for a new spirit

Ask for an understanding heart to discern good from bad with thy people!

**GOD GIVES WISDOM LIBERALLY – James 1:5 Pray for it!**

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

- Even your thoughts will be taken in account
- Practice it. It is not an overnight thing
- SPA

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues

- If you have a spirit of not wanting to make things right between you and your brother/sister, that's is a plague. It's a sickness. Recognizes it for what it is
- The offended person must allow the offender to fix what's wrong
- Don't take the process for granted

3 C's

**Clear \* Conscious \* Circumspect**

**Clear** – Is it easy to perceive, understandable, able to be communicated and easy to see.

**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

**Conscious** – Giving ample information using fewer words, short and brief.

**Prov 10:19** Multitude of words, want not sin

- No long drawn out story, no if, ands or buts

**Circumspect** – To Wary and be unwilling to take risks, cautious and careful

- You are careful about your souls
- Make sure you're not rushing

**Sirach 37:16** let not reason go before every enterprise, council before every action

- We are a part of a congregation with order and guidelines
- We must be in scriptures for suggestions
- As yourself, "Am I overreacting?" Call the sister. Ask questions.

**Matthew 18:15** If brother trespass against thee

- Got to your brother one-on-one
- If you have questions, go to a senior sister

**Proverbs 1:29** For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:

- Your age means nothing. We are all kids in the spirit.
- We react like kids the way we resolve different situations

*Breaking down the video in the beginning of class*

A. Not sharing her recipes

- Charity is helping one another out. One mind, one body.
- The antagonist is showing hatred.

**Zephaniah. 2:1** Gather together oh nation not desired

- It is a vain glorious spirit for those that do not want to share recipes

B. Not sharing hair wrap techniques. She lied about the effort it took her to wrap her hair.

- The actress doesn't want the other sister to be cuter than her.
- Remember that sharing your gifts doesn't take anything away from you. It adds to you.

C. Actress gossiped about the sister behind her back about not knowing scriptures and lied when she was confronted about it.

D. She saw the sister struggling with her kids and was too selfish and self-involved to help the sister.

- a. Sometimes, sister will have to ask for help.

### Sirach 14:13

- The help is really needed
- Take kids for a walk to help the mother out
- The child should not know that there is dispute between you and the mother. Keep the kids out



### Sirach 37:1-2 There is a friend, only a friend in name

- If you need to let them go, let them go!
- Still say shalom and greet them with a kiss.
- Keep in mind, Christ had very few that were close to him

### Determine what stage your friendship is in (5 stages).

1. Intimate friends
2. Close friends
3. Casual friends
4. Acquaintances
5. Strangers

Once you've done all the steps and there's no chance for reconciliation, you must let it go.

If you did the offense, don't let that be the root of bitterness. Just accept it for what it is.

*All Praises to TMH*