

# QUIETING A NOISY SOUL

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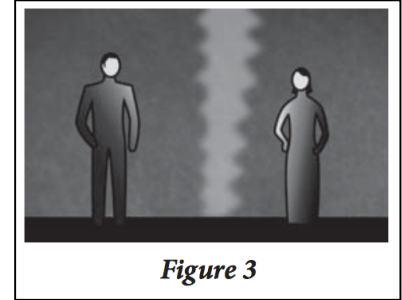
## Part Three: The Way Out

### Session 15

## Dealing with the Other Side of the Wedge

*"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32*

- ➡ When somebody has wronged us, there is a God-honoring way to deal with the offense (his side of the wedge, **Figure 3**). He must be confronted about his offense so that he can ask forgiveness and so that you can grant it, thus restoring the relationship.



**Figure 3**

#### Steps to Granting Forgiveness to Others:

1. Actions to take toward \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Surrender to God your assumed right to demand "\_\_\_\_\_."
    - ➡ Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35; Mark 11:25-26; Romans 12:17-20
  - b. Pray for the offender's \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ➡ Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60
2. Actions to take toward the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Feed your \_\_\_\_\_ while he is estranged.
    - ➡ Romans 12:20-21; I Samuel 24:17
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ the offender in meekness.
    - 1) If the offense is a personal offense against you, see him \_\_\_\_\_. The purpose is to "gain your brother" (Matthew 18:15). The purpose of the rebuke is to help the other person see his offense so that he will ask you and God to forgive him. Though you have surrendered to God any assumed right to demand "payment" and you have a forgiving spirit toward him, you cannot extend forgiveness to him until he asks for it. This is how God deals with us (I John 1:9) and is our pattern with others.
      - ➡ Galatians 6:1; Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 18:15
      - ➡ Study how God rebuked Cain (Genesis 4:6-7); how Abigail rebuked David (I Samuel 25:4-35); how David rebuked King Saul (I Samuel 24:1-15); and how Nathan rebuked King David (II Samuel 12:1-9).
      - ➡ So many family members, church members, and Christian coworkers wrong others by their harsh words, vindictive actions, and manipulative ways and never seek to make it right with those they have wronged. The next day they act as if nothing has happened. This blight in the body of Christ and hindrance to Christian love and fellowship must be addressed. The offender cannot be allowed to continue in this state of distance from God and others because of his sin.
    - 2) If he refuses to hear you, take \_\_\_\_\_ with you.

➤ Matthew 18:16

3) \_\_\_\_\_ him when he \_\_\_\_\_.

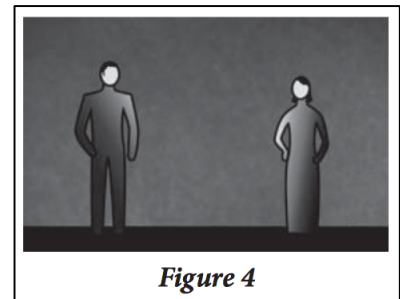
- Noise in the soul is often the result of an unforgiving, bitter spirit. This attitude reigns when the believer either has not surrendered to God his assumed right to demand “payment” or he refuses to grant forgiveness when it is sought by the other party.

Jesus addressed this issue at length in a parable in Matthew 18:23-35. The ungrateful servant was dealt with strongly because he failed to forgive a small debt owed by a fellow servant after he himself had been forgiven an unpayable debt.

The unforgiving servant was “delivered...to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.” “Tormentors” here does not refer to jailers. It refers to those who would harass him with severe torture. This is important to understand because of the Lord’s next statement: “So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you [i.e., deliver you over to harassing torment], if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses” (v.35).

Many afflictions of the emotions and body lie right here in God’s promise to torment unforgiving believers.

- \_\_\_\_\_ removes the wedge entirely (**Figure 4**) but still may leave the parties at some distance. The forgiven believer still may require corrective action for his growth, but his request for forgiveness and your granting of it establishes fellowship with him again.



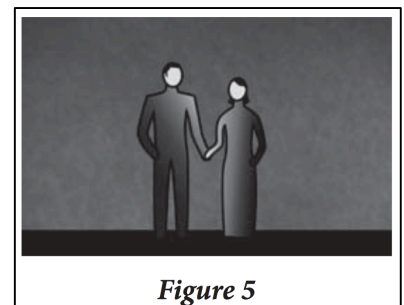
- Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 18:35; Ephesians 4:32

- 4) Help him face any \_\_\_\_\_ measures involved (restitution, restriction, radical amputation) as discussed in the last session.
- 5) Apply \_\_\_\_\_ discipline if he refuses to be reconciled.
  - Matthew 18:17
  - Church discipline is never applied for the basic offense, but for stubbornly refusing to be reconciled to God and others after much effort to restore him.

c. Rebuild the relationship so that brotherly \_\_\_\_\_ is the defining hallmark of the relationship (John 13:34-35).

- This rebuilding process is beyond the scope of this discussion, but growth in personal sanctification of both parties will be the key.<sup>1</sup>

- **Figure 5** shows a reconciled husband and wife. Not only have both parts of the wedge been removed, but the distance between them has also been removed, and the unity of Christlike love is now visible.



<sup>1</sup> See Jim Berg, *Changed into His Image* (Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 1999), and its companion worktext, *Taking Time to Change*, for help in understanding how this Christian growth in sanctification takes place.

**CONCLUSION:** The loudest noises in the soul are the agitations of a \_\_\_\_\_ conscience. “The Way Out” starts with confession and cleansing so that we can have *“a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men”* (Acts 24:16).

Your soul is not supposed to be at rest when it is at war with God. Isaiah 57:20-21 says, *“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when **it cannot rest**, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. **There is no peace**, saith my God, to the wicked.”*