

9th Grade Devotion 3



Romans 3:23 states one of the sad facts of the human race; we all sin. It's a part of our nature. We are going to sin, we are going to fail, we are going to disappoint, not only God, but the people we love. And, we will be disappointed by others. Since we know this to be a fact, it just makes sense to have a plan in place to deal with such situations. God lays it out for us in scripture. When there is an offense, the offender must repent, and the offended must forgive so the offender can be restored.

REPENTANCE

Luke 17:3-4

³ Be careful. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. ⁴ If he sins against you seven times in the day, and seven times returns, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

Throughout scripture we are admonished to repent of our sin. Repentance does not simply mean that you are sorry. You might be sorry you got caught. You might be genuinely sorry that you hurt someone or caused them a problem. Still not repentance. Repentance goes a step further. Repentance involves a decision to turn away from the sin/problem/behavior and a determination to never make that mistake again. Unfortunately, we are not perfect in that either. That's why Jesus made the provision for repeat offenses.

FORGIVENESS

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you don't forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

RESTORATION

Galatians 6:1

¹ Brothers, even if a man is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to yourself so that you also aren't tempted.

Restoration is a process that requires the help of another. There must be forgiveness. There must be a return to a trusting relationship. But restoration is a process that generally takes some time. The offender must be willing to earn it and the offended must be willing to grant it. Both must rely on God to effectively accomplish the task.

Parents:

Talk with your student about repentance and restoration. Pray together for God's help in matters of forgiveness and restoration.

