

CLEARING AWAY THE RUBBLE

July 22, 2012 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Living Out Our Inheritance In Christ, Part 23

MAIN IDEA: Today, we're going to look at some of the rubble that needs to be cleared away to move our marriages into God's best... and how to do it.

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. **1 Corinthians 3:10**

1. Our CULTURAL INFECTION on the meaning of marriage

"What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."
Luke 16:15

Infected by our cultures obsession with **Romantic Love**.

2. Power of our PARENT'S MODELING.

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **John 9:1-2** (see Ex. 20:5)

3. Our Own Personal SIN, SELFISHNESS & BROKENNESS.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Another dimension of this rubble is our **BROKENNESS**.

TARGET: True marriage is built on God's-Kind-of-Love...
Self-Giving Love.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
Philippians 2:3-4 (see Mark 10:35-45)

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THE CURE: How to clear away the rubble?

A. Some things can be HEALED, FORGIVEN and resolved.

Surely he bore our griefs and carried our sorrows... the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **Isaiah 53:4-5** (1 Peter 5:7)

B. Some things must be REPENTED of.

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord **Acts 3:19**

C. Some things must be REJECTED. (Renounced)

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. **Proverbs 28:13**

D. In some things we must simply GROW-UP.

"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." **Matthew 5:48** Message

Jesus loves you and is reaching out to you today. He wants you to open the door to your heart and invite Him in. Here's a prayer to help you make this connection with Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I turn from my sins to you. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I trust you and want to follow You as Lord and Savior. In Your name. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer for the first time today, would you please let us know by filling out a Lifeline card and dropping it in the Offering Box? Thanks so much.