

Yet how many times have we rushed off to church—for a time of worshiping God—with a mess of sorts hanging all over our hearts? Maybe we had a fight with our spouse during the week, and we haven't spoken for days. Or perhaps we are still carrying the burden of the conversation-turned-argument that we had with our parents, leaving a dark cloud of anger.

One Sunday morning before church, I heard someone confess her attitude the previous day and the impatient way she had treated everyone. Her words had a powerful effect on both her and those she had hurt. And she had cleaned off the mess before going to church.

That situation reminded me of what Jesus said in Matthew 5:23-24. When we come before God to worship Him, we need to stop fooling ourselves. Hypocrites need not apply for the role of worshipper. God is not deceived by nice-sounding words or a holy-looking exterior on Sunday morning. He knows our hearts. That's why Jesus told His followers to make things right with others, to reconcile with those we have hurt before coming to the Lord in worship.

So, before we approach God and begin to praise Him, let's make sure that we're not covered with the mess of hurt that we have caused others, or with bitter anger. With His help we can come before Him with hearts that are wholly holy. —Kurt DeHaan

#### REFLECTION

- As I think back to last Sunday, did I come to church prepared to worship? Or did I “sweep under the rug” some problems?
- What relational conflicts in my life is God bringing to my mind right now? What can I do about them, with His help?



**Come clean with God before you come to worship.**

# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## JUNE 10, 2018

### Wholly Holy

**Matthew 5:21-24 First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.**

It's Sunday morning. After a quick breakfast, you're getting ready to run out the door and head to church. You take a last-minute look at yourself in the mirror and notice that you have some jam smeared on your chin. There's a glob on your collar too. Even the least style-conscious among us know that's not fashionable these days.

What do you do about it? Do you ignore the mess and pretend that no one will notice? Probably not. Most of us would rather be late than be caught wearing food.



# Insights for Living

## Standfast in Harmony 3



### #1. Standfast in harmony, v2-3

- #2. Standfast in joy, v4
- #3. Standfast in gentleness, v5
- #4. Standfast in peace, v6-7
- #5. Standfast in thought, v8
- #6. Standfast in action, v9

We can standfast in harmonious relationships by:

### 1. Resolving interpersonal conflict, verse 2

[2. Making peace between warring parties, verse 3] [to be considered later]

Paul's case study in verse 2 (on resolving interpersonal conflict) can be considered in three steps:

#### #1. Understand how we get into conflict, verses 2

Differences: demands: division

#### #2. Find the right Attitude, verses 2, 2:5, 8

- ◆ Humility,
- ◆ Seek to glorify God,

#### #3. Live out the right actions, verse 2

Now we need to consider 5 questions that will lead us to the right actions,

- ◆ Can I overlook this hurt, this offence?
- ◆ What is my side of the ledger?
- ◆ How do I \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_?  
Just \_\_\_\_\_ it

**(Psalms 51:4)** "Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight; ..."

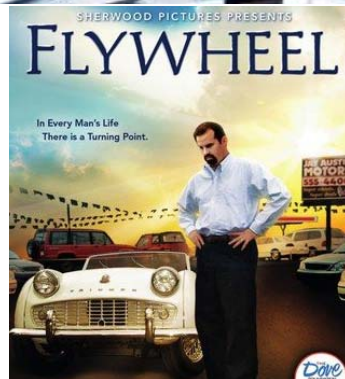
**(Matthew 5:23-24)** ""Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

**(James 5:16)** "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. ..."

**(Genesis 3:11-14)** "And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" {12} Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." {13} And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." {14} So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly



Jim Berg



you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life."

**(Romans 12:18)** "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

**(Romans 12:15)** "... weep with those who weep."

\_\_\_\_\_ the consequences

**(2 Samuel 16:11)** "... Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him."

**(Luke 19:8)** "Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.""

\_\_\_\_\_ repeating the sin

**(Proverbs 28:13)** "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

\_\_\_\_\_ for forgiveness

◆ What does it take to \_\_\_\_\_?

**(Ephesians 4:32)** "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

**(1 John 1:9)** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**(Jeremiah 31:34)** ""... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.""

**(Ephesians 4:31-32)** "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. {32} And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

**(Hebrews 12:14-15)** "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: {15} looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;"

I promise not to:

\_\_\_\_\_ on the sin

\_\_\_\_\_ the sin

\_\_\_\_\_ the incident to others

let the incident \_\_\_\_\_ our relationship

**(2 Samuel 12:10-12)** "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' {11} "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. {12} 'For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'""

**(1 Timothy 3:2)** "A bishop [=pastor] then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, ...;"

**(Philippians 4:2)** "I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord."

