

THE BIG IDEA: Don't conceal what God reveals.The Take-Off

As we bring this series on relationships to a close, I want to expose what I believe is the number one relationship killer and also show you God's solution for dealing with it.

We're going to be spending the entire morning in the 4th chapter of Ephesians, so go ahead and get there while we do a quick recap.

Week 1 was about alignment - you can't walk together if you aren't in agreement.

Week 2 was about attachment - specifically attaching ourselves to God's goodness and then carrying that into every relationship we have.

Last week Adam did a fantastic job talking about adding the ingredients of God's not so secret sauce to our relationships and showing how doing that allows us to grow closer to God and each other in our relationships.

This morning I want to warn you about the one thing that can shipwreck your relationships faster than anything else: it's an iceberg called SECRETS.

Let me be clear about the difference between keeping a confidence and keeping a secret:

- Keeping a confidence is based in love
- Keeping a secret is based in fear
- Keeping a confidence brings things into the light
- Keeping a secret keeps things in the dark
- Keeping a confidence is part of a healing process
- Keeping a secret is part of a hiding process

God is all about bringing things into the light, and while we don't have time to read all of these, jot down some of these references and look them up later: Luke 8:17; 12:3; John 1:5; 3:19-20; 8:12; Romans 13:12; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 5:8, 11; 1 John 1:5

God doesn't expose us to embarrass us, but to free us from the power of shame

I believe that secrets are the number 1 relationship killer because they keep us from living freely with others

Like a criminal on the run, we can never really relax in the relationship because we're always looking over our shoulder

God's answer for this? The entire chapter of **Ephesians 4**.

Go ahead and get there because we'll be in it the rest of the time.

We're going to divide this chapter into two 16 verse segments.

Verses 1-16 will describe THE GOAL and verses 17-32 will describe THE GRIND. (Or the HOPE and the HUSTLE)

1. The goal (vv. 1-16)

- a. Paul lays out the goal in the first half of the chapter: a culture of love full of truth and free from fear
- b. v. 1 / live worthy of your calling - WHERE? In relationship
- c. vv. 2-3 / we're to be humble, gentle, patient, gracious, tenacious, peaceful - these happen in relationship
- d. vv. 7-11 / this goal is so important that everything Jesus did was to provide gifts (5-fold ministry gifts) to ensure it happens
- e. What is the goal? Verse 15 - **a culture where we can speak truth IN love even if we don't always speak it WITH love**
- f. Being able to say what's right vs being afraid to say what's wrong
- g. That culture leads to verse 16 - a body fit together perfectly, healthy and strong

2. The grind (vv. 17-32)

- a. I'm calling the next half of the chapter "the grind" because any goal must be pursued and that pursuit isn't always easy.
- b. This pursuit is not for the faint of heart, because if the goal is a culture of love full of truth and free from fear, then the grind is a commitment to live in truth without fear.
- c. This is where relationships change - if we choose to live in the light
- d. v. 17 / change how you live
- e. v. 18 / no longer in darkness
- f. v. 18 / darkness separates us from God

- g. v. 19 / darkness keeps us focused on ourselves
- h. v. 20 / JESUS IS DIFFERENT - He is the LIGHT that repels the darkness!
- i. v. 21 / light brings truth
- j. v. 23 / light brings change
- k. v. 24 / light brings godliness
- l. v. 25 / SO ("So what????!!") Since light is so much more powerful than darkness, live in truth!
- m. vv. 26-27 / anything less than truth opens us up to offense with others and attacks from the enemy
- n. BUT TRUTH...
- o. v. 28 / makes us better workers
- p. v. 29 / makes us more encouraging
- q. v. 30 / makes us more sensitive to the Spirit
- r. v. 31 / makes us less toxic
- s. v. 32 / makes us more forgiving
- t. In short, if secrets and the number 1 relationship killer, then truth is the number 1 relationship healer

The Landing

Does this mean that we all come clean and share everything that we've ever done with anyone we have a relationship with? With spouses, friends, co-workers, bosses?

No. It means that we first come clean with our Lord and then allow him to reveal the next steps.

It means a commitment to **not conceal what God reveals**.

Let me and Wendy tell you a story about what that can look like.

[Kill the spider]