

The Lost Art of Restoration

August 28, 2022 | Deep End Faith | James 5:19-20 | Pastor Mike Foster

These closing verses of James are grounded in two foundational identities of the church:

1. We are a family – and we are called to togetherness

2. We are a bride – and we are called to holiness

· We are prone to wander (v. 19)

-Sin's ongoing temptation

-Sin's devilish deception

-Sin's devastating effects

· We are called to restore (v. 20)

Grow in giving correction

Lovingly

Humbly

Carefully

Grow in receiving correction

Lovingly

Humbly

Carefully

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15. In your own words, explain how practicing a private faith might look different from living in community like God has called us to.
3. Share about a time when you had to admit you were wrong? How long did it take? How did you feel? What was hard about it?
4. Read Proverbs 10:17 and 19:20 – what do you observe in these verses? What kind of character qualities does it take to live in the way described by these verses?
5. Read Galatians 6:1-2. What temptations might someone face when they are seeking to lovingly restore a brother or sister? How can we better guard against such temptations?
6. Read Matthew 18:15-17. How would you summarize this teaching of Jesus? What might it look like to apply this teaching of Jesus in a specific situation?
7. What are some examples of what humility might look like when a person is seeking to correct a brother or sister in Christ?
8. Who is someone you know who is a very humble and approachable person? What beliefs or behaviors do they have that helps them to function in this kind of way?
9. Where in Jesus' ministry do we see our Savior's heart for restoration? What can we learn from Jesus about restoration?
10. How could your church or small group better create an atmosphere where sin can be lovingly pointed out, confessed, and forgiven – where the lost art of restoration can be restored?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Read Proverbs 10:17 & 19:20, Matthew 7:1-5 & 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
- Read "Community: God's Design for Growth" – <https://bible.org/article/community-god%E2%80%99s-design-growth>
- Read "How to Humbly Give and Receive Correction" – www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-humbly-give-and-receive-correction
- Read "Four Tips on How to Accept Correction" – www.namb.net/send-network/resource/four-tips-on-how-to-accept-correction/
- Listen to "Refiner's Fire" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLyQAx8DpBI
- Listen to "Refiner" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGFCbmvk0vo
- Watch "Immorality and the Church" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HGI9cFIHwc