



SERMON NOTES

September 25, 2011

Scripture: Luke 17:1-10 (NAS)

Topic: "Maintaining Relationships"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come!
- 2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble.
- 3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.
- 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."
- 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
- 6 And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.
- 7 "Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'?
- 8 "But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'?
- 9 "He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?
- 10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves: we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

I. THE CHURCH IS COMPRISED OF RELATIONSHIPS

A. Sin Effects Relationships

B. Failure To Deal Properly With Sin Permanently Effects Relationships

II. WARNINGS AGAINST RELATIONAL SIN

A. Warning Against Being A Stumbling Block

1. All sin is against God *Psalm 51:4*

2. Many sins also have negative effects on human relationships

B. Stumbling Block Defined *Romans 14:13; Romans 16:17*

C. Stumbling Block Sins Do No Nullify Our Responsibility

III. THE GRAVITY OF STUMBLING BLOCK SINS *Romans 6:1-2*

A. The Weight Of The Stone

B. The Responsibility We Carry For The Weaker Brother

IV. SETTING UP A GUARD

A. First On Our Own Hearts *Matthew 7:3-5*

B. Second Protection For Our Brother In The Faith

V. THE THREE STEP PROCESS

A. Rebuke

B. Observe The Repentance

C. Grant Forgiveness

VI. REASONS THAT CALL US TO GO

A. Someone Has Something Against Us

B. The Sin Continues To Bring Dishonor To The Lord

C. If Not Dealt With It Damages The Relationship

D. If The Sin Continues To Hurt The Person Sinning

E. IT IS OUR DUTY