

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: The Restoration Way

Passage: Various

Illustration:

Need: When we blow it, does that mean sin has won and we are finished? Absolutely not! All Christians blow it and we all need the gracious restoration that comes first from our God and then from our community.

I. When Christians blow it...

- Our sin is against God and our fellowship with Him is broken.
- Our sin hurts and breaks trust with those who love us. (the closer the relationship, the greater the hurt)
- Our sin disappoints those who know us and expect more from us.
- Our sin may require that we step away from ministry roles involving leadership or authority.
- Restoration is available and possible! The way is paid for and paved with the blood of Jesus.

II. Repentance

- Change of mind, regret with remorse; (OT) return, turn, seek; (NT) turn from sin/self to God.
- Taking ownership of and turning from sin, and in our brokenness, desiring to restore and repair.
- We repent of our sin first to our God where we find instant forgiveness and complete restoration!
- We also must repent to those our sin has hurt. This is more than an apology or admitting a mistake.
- **1 John 1:9; Luke 15:20-24**

III. Accountability

- Intentionally walking with other believers or professionals with transparency, vulnerability and humility.
- Rebuilding what sin has broken in you and putting barriers between you and a return to sin.
- **Gal. 6:1; James 5:16**

IV. Consistency

- Continued forward progress away from sin and towards godliness.
- As you walk forward, the Holy Spirit will produce visible fruit in your life over time.
- This is when your life since your sin speaks louder of you than your past failure.
- John Mark abandoned the gospel ministry and broke Paul's trust (Acts 13 & 15). 25+ years later, Paul's opinion had changed.
- **2 Tim. 4:11**

V. Grace

- Undeserved favor which God "lavished upon us." (Eph. 1:7-10)
- While God forgives and restores instantly, the same is not usually true of those we hurt.
- Grace is an extension of repentance where we allow others to work through the hurt we caused.
- Grace gives others time to hear. How long? As long as it takes.
- Grace understands that things can't ever be "the way they used to be."
- Grace decides to let God create forgiveness in the hearts of those you hurt instead of demanding it now.
- **Matt. 6:33**

VI. Restoration is the Gospel's continued work in our lives!