

Restoration – The Responsibility

Once the plan for restoration is known then the process of restoration can begin. But the question is: “With whom does the responsibility of restoration lie?”

Does it lie with the pastor, the committee, the leadership, outside counselors, or with each one of us?

Remember Cain when the Lord asked him where his brother Abel was. He responded, “I don’t know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” He refused to responsibility for both his actions and his brother.

Nehemiah 3: 1 – 32

1) Responsibility goes beyond gifting

- Who were the people who were restoring the wall of Jerusalem?
 - The high priest and his fellow priests (vs. 1, 22, 28)
 - Goldsmiths (vs. 8, 31, 32)
 - Perfume-makers (vs. 8)
 - Ruler of districts and half districts (vs. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)
 - Levites (vs. 17)
 - Merchants (vs. 32)
- Some years ago a former American astronaut took over as head of a major airline, determined to make the airline’s service the best in the industry. One day, as the new president walked through a particular department, he saw an employee resting his feet on a desk while the telephone on the desk rang incessantly. “Aren’t you going to answer that phone?” the boss demanded. “This isn’t my department,” answered the employee nonchalantly, apparently not recognizing his new boss. “I work in maintenance.” “Not anymore you don’t!” snapped the president.
- One thing that destroys companies, organizations and churches are the words: “It’s not my department” or “It’s not my responsibility.”
- When it comes to restoration in the body of Christ we need to understand that it is all of our responsibility.
- Look at some of the “One another” verses:
 - “Love one another” John 13:34
 - “Have equal concern for each other” 1 Corinthians 12:25
 - “Serve one another” Galatians 5:13
 - “Carry each other’s burdens” Galatians 6:2
 - “Be patient, bearing with one another” Ephesians 4:2
 - “Forgive whatever grievance you may have against one another” Colossians 3:13
 - “Build each other up” 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - “Encourage one another daily” Hebrews 3:13
 - “Pray for each other” James 5:16
 - “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling” 1 Peter 4:9
 - “Each should use whatever gift he has to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace” 1 Peter 4:10
- Being responsible for the body of Christ is not an optional extra. Most of the “one another” verses are used in the imperative case.
- God expects us to be responsible even if it means going beyond our gifting.

2) A little together goes a long way

- When Nehemiah got the vision to restore the walls and gates of Jerusalem he shared it with the other Israelite leaders and got the Israelites involved in the work of restoration. He did not run around trying to build the walls himself.
- They had to realize that Jerusalem was their legacy and not Nehemiah's.
- We all need to realize that the church is all of our legacy and not the pastor's
- When everyone took up their responsibility to building up the wall they each just had a small section to complete. No one was expected to build the whole wall by themselves. As they concentrated on their section of the wall eventually the whole wall was built.
- By each one doing their own little bit the work of the Lord gets done without any particular person feeling the pressure of the load.
- It is when a few are taking up the responsibility for the building of the church that should be done by many that they are under pressure.
- TEAMS – Together Each Achieves Most Success
- What is the little bit that God wants you to do to work for the restoration of others and the church.

3) Pride rejects the hard work of Restoration (v. 5)

- We have seen that many of the people working to restore the wall were leaders
- However the nobles of Tekoa would not put their shoulders to work under their supervisors
 - They probably considered it beneath their dignity to do manual labour under a supervisor who was not a noble.
- Pride wants to be served and does not want to serve.
- They would rather be living amongst brokenness than humble themselves and put their hand to the restoration process.
- They want the job done but don't want to get involved in doing it themselves.
- If pride is hindering you from participating in the restoration process, whether it be in your personal life, or in the church, are you willing to put it aside and allow God to work in and through you?