



2019 2Q Family Seasons - Lesson 10 Little Times of Trouble

by Tim Jennings

I received the following email after my trip to Barrie Ontario:

Hello,

I just finished attending Dr. Jennings presentations at the Barrie church this weekend. I wanted to thank him for coming and am very appreciative that his schedule is posted on the website! I'm not local to Barrie and just stumbled across the info that he would be visiting. I've been following the podcast for years and it was great to hear the concepts all together and in person.

Thank you also to the Come and Reason class for sharing your teacher, having great alternates that teach when Dr. Jennings is away, and for someone always asking the questions I'm thinking :)

May God continue to bless this ministry.

*Thanks again,
Kelleigh*

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “The writer of Proverbs...” Do we agree with the goal of trying to stop an argument or disagreement before it escalates? The old Barney Fife rule—“Nip it in the bud, nip it, nip it, nip it...”

The lesson points us to Romans 14:19 as giving us the tools to do this, which reads:

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. (NIV84)

What does this mean and how does it help prevent conflict?

Can a person take an action that they believe will lead to peace but it actually causes more division?



When Peter initially agreed with the circumcision group from Jerusalem—do you think Peter was trying to create more conflict or avoid it? But, if Paul didn't correct Peter would Peter's action have led to more peace or greater division? Why?

What is the reason that an action, taken with the best intentions, could cause more division?

If it is out of harmony with reality—i.e. breaks design law, such as perpetuating a falsehood.

Could this issue be involved in the divisions in the church over women's ordination—could people be motivated to bring peace, to avoid conflict, but take positions that actually cause more division?

What principles incite greater division?

Why was it wrong for Peter to side with the circumcision group—was it only because they clung to a symbolic ritual as having some actual value, or was there another reason? Did the circumcision group, in addition to the error on the importance of circumcision, have a deeper error in the way they operated—namely the method they wanted to employ to advance their view?

What method did the circumcision group want to employ? Ostracization and coercion. What is the method of God? Truth, presented in love, leaving others free.

What happens when we try and coerce others? It is a violation of the Law of Liberty and always damages love and **incites** rebellion.

In the current debate over women's ordination, what methods are being used by the two sides?

Is one group advocating for liberty, for freedom, for allowing the various conferences and unions to have the freedom to decide what works best in their churches but never force anyone to ordain women? Is the other side using the methods of freedom or are they working to coerce, enforce, and dictate to others on this subject?

So, when we consider doing what leads to peace, can we expect peace while violating God's design law, such as the law of liberty?

This is why the SDA church was set up with local control, to protect against central authority dictating rules, to protect the principle of freedom.



Romans 14:19 from *The Remedy*:

Let us therefore consider the wellbeing of others, and do whatever we can to assist in their healing and to promote peace with each other.

Does this make it any clearer? When you consider the wellbeing of others, one needs to understand design law, what actually brings health and healing to the entire person, mind, body, spirit.

MONDAY

Back in Lesson 7 on Sunday, they quoted a section from *The Adventist Home* page 179, I am expanding the quote just a little more to what they referenced:

The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. **The secret of true unity in the church and in the family** is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties--though there will be much of this to do--**but union with Christ.** {AH 179.1}

Picture a large circle, from the edge of which are many lines all running to the center. The nearer these lines approach the center, the nearer they are to one another... {AH 179.2}

The closer we come to Christ, the nearer we shall be to one another. {AH 179.3}

Do you see the key in finding unity? It is **not** by focusing on our differences; it is **not** by focusing on our similarities; it is **not** by focusing on doctrinal conformity or a list of right rules; it is **not** by focusing on proper government or legislation; it is **not** by focusing on human rights; **it is by focusing on Jesus**—this is the key!

Satan knows that if we focus on Jesus, make Him the center of our hearts, lives, desires, longings, and intentions then we will be transformed and we will come into unity of heart with others. This is a function of the Law of Worship—a design law—the Bible describes as “by beholding we become changed.” So, Satan wants to take our minds off Jesus—how?

- By substituting a false Jesus for the true Jesus—getting us to conceive of Jesus and God as beings who impose laws and then inflict penalties—this is modern Baal worship, of which the Bible warns. Thus, many will come to Jesus in the end and claim to be His followers but Jesus said He never knew them.
- Business of life’s responsibilities (paying bills, schoolwork, jobs, kids, chores)



- Business in good activities, ministries, serving others to the point that we don't have time for God, rest, or our own health
- Entertainment (games, internet, TV, books)
- Drugs and alcohol
- Unhealthy relationships
- Focusing on sin, the fear of committing it and the obsession with avoiding it, so one formulates long lists of right rules and lives in fear of breaking them. In other words, we are not focusing on Jesus but ourselves.
- Focusing on doctrinal correctness i.e. a form of Gnosticism of studying to get all the facts, doctrines or rules right but not focusing on Jesus
- Religiosity focusing on performing all the right rituals or being very religious in our lifestyle
- Traumas, diseases, losses, suffering, pain, illness, cruelty, unfairness which can cause doubt and rejection of God
- False philosophies that replace God with either false gods or no God
- others?

We must learn how to keep our minds and hearts fixed on Christ.

The lesson points out that we must learn to forgive—what prevents people from forgiving others?

Seven Myths of forgiveness:

- Forgiveness means restored trust
- Forgiveness comes after the offender says they are sorry
- Forgiveness equals salvation—this is the false legal idea that the problem of sin is a legal problem and we need legal forgiveness or pardon.
 - Recently, I had someone say to me, forgiveness costs something to the one who forgives. A price must be paid to forgive. If I stole a million dollars from God and I couldn't repay Him, and God forgave me, that would cost God a million dollars. What is the problem with this idea and analogy?
 - It is based on imposed law—a million dollars is an arbitrary construct—it has no real value and is nothing to God. So this analogy traps us in an imposed law worldview.
 - Let's use a design law analogy to get at the truth:
 - If your child disobeyed your instructions not to mess with the various chemicals in the garage, but drank antifreeze and was dying from renal failure, would something need to be done in order to get you to forgive your child? Or would you instantly forgive them?
 - Would your forgiveness save them?
 - What else is needed in order to save them? A remedy.



- If you donated a kidney to save them, would that cost you something? Is the cost or price necessary in order to forgive or to save?
 - It did not cost God something to forgive us; it cost Him something to heal and save us.
 - And if you didn't give a kidney to save your child, would it cost you?
 - Would it have cost God to not send Jesus? "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
 - The reality is that once Adam sinned it was going to cost God something—but the cost was not to forgive, it was to save.
 - Now, this is the way we use and understand the concept of forgiveness today. However, some in the past have used the concept of forgiveness to mean the entire process of reconciliation—the offended forgiving, the offender repenting and being changed and the relationship being healed. In that context, we could not be forgiven (reconciled to God) without the death of Christ. But that is not how the term forgiveness is used by people today.
- Forgiving someone means what they did was okay
 - Forgiveness leads to greater vulnerability
 - Forgiveness means forgetting
 - Forgiveness means the offender gets away with it

Read last paragraph, "You must accept..." Hmmm... what do you think of this idea of accepting your spouse's faults?

Doesn't it depend on what we mean?

Is there a difference between making mistakes and choosing evil?

Yes, there is a difference from make a math error in your check registry and accidentally over drafting a check and purposely writing fraudulent checks.

We should accept the human foibles, oversights, forgetfulness, shortcomings, and slips that occur with all people. But we should accept any action or activity that purposely embraces and promotes evil. Why? Because such actions destroy the heart, mind and character of the one we love.

- So we should not accept addictions in our spouse—we should love our spouses with addictions. But if the spouse refuses to address, acknowledge, deal with or in any way seek to overcome i.e. get into recovery, we should not sit quietly by and accept. To do so enables the addict.



- We should not accept infidelity
- We should not accept abuse, mental, physical, emotional, spiritual or sexual
- We should not accept betrayal of trust

What underlying attitude or motive allows one to accept the imperfections of their spouse?

Knowing that each spouse loves the other so much they both want to be perfect for the other and are grieved anytime they come up short.

TUESDAY

The lesson focuses us on our memory verse for the week which is Ephesians 4:26: "Be angry and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath." NKJV

Is it sin to be angry?

The Bible is filled with references to God being angry: "The Lord's anger burns against his people" (Isaiah 5:25 NIV84).

God certainly does not sin and, in fact, is slow to anger: "But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Psalm 86:15 NIV84).

So, there must be some aspect of anger that is not sin. Yet, the Bible also describes anger as cruel and foolish and something to be avoided:

- "Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?" (Psalm 27:4 NIV84).
- "Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger" (Proverbs 29:8 NIV84).
- "Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools" (Ecclesiastes 7:9 NIV84).

Moreover, the New Testament gives strong injunction that those who are becoming like Jesus are to get rid of all anger:

- "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31, 32 NIV84).
- "Now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips" (Colossians 3:8 NIV84).



So, how do we make sense of anger? How can we be instructed to get rid of all anger—and that anger is unwise and for the fools—yet God is described as getting angry?

The issue is the motive and the focus of the anger:

- Righteous anger is always motivated by love for people and focuses on destroying the disease of sin in order to heal and save people
- Sinful anger is motivated by selfishness and focuses on punishing, hurting, or destroying people, while perpetuating sin and selfishness

Here is a simple example: Doctors have righteous anger toward pathogens (measles, polio, Ebola) and diseases (cancer, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, etc.). They seek to destroy all disease and pathology to heal and save people. But doctors do not have anger toward sick and dying patients.

Of course, doctors do get angry at activities that spread disease, especially when it is purposely spread—HIV-infected individuals who spread the disease with dirty needles or unprotected sex. But doctors still love the addict or prostitute who is spreading the disease. It's just that, while seeking to cure those currently infected, doctors also want to prevent the spread of the disease to protect all who are not yet infected.

Doctors also offer remedies for HIV and methods to stop its spread, but when a person refuses to take the remedy and to use methods that prevent infecting others, doctors get angry not only at the disease, but they also get angry at the refusal of the person who rejects the treatment. And how much greater the anger when the person who refuses lifesaving treatment is the doctor's own son or daughter?

Why are the doctors angry? Because they love the dying person and know they can save them, if the terminal individual would only let them.

This is righteous anger—never seeking to harm the person, but always motivated by love to heal and save, even when a person refuses healing and chooses paths that destroy themselves and others. This is the anger that God expresses:

As the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice offering healing and restoration, do not reject the true Remedy and darken your minds as you did in the rebellion in the desert, during the opportunity to partake of God's cure, where your fathers broke my heart by trying their own remedies and rejecting the truth which I brought and for forty years patiently tried to heal them. That is why I was so angry with what happened to that generation, and said, 'Their minds continually reject the healing truth, and they refuse to practice my ways of health and live.' So I granted them their persistent choice and said, 'Since they refuse the truth—the Remedy I freely offer—they will never be able to enter my rest and get well'" (Hebrews 3:7–11 *The Remedy*).



Jesus also expressed anger at the hardness of heart that obstructed His healing love, but He still loved those whose hearts were hard:

He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored (Mark 3:5, 6 NIV84).

And what does righteous anger, which is a manifestation of love, do to those who persistently refuse healing? It acts to restrain and to protect until the point that the person is healed or no further intervention will be helpful—and then love let's go, with sadness, and allows the person to reap what they have chosen: pain, suffering, and death. But it never retaliates. Love is angry, because it didn't have to be this way! Righteous anger doesn't act to torture, inflict harm, or cause suffering and torment.

When Israel persistently rejected God and insisted on damaging their hearts, minds, and characters by engaging in idol worship, God—like a loving doctor whose patient refuses rehab and insists on injecting themselves with harmful substances—set them free to reap what they chose. Without God's protecting presence, enemies of all sorts came in and attacked them; they reaped what they had chosen, a life separated from God.

And God was angry, because it didn't have to be that way!

Selfish anger, however, is not motivated by love for others, nor is it angry at the suffering that sin is causing others. Rather, selfish anger is an anger about the wrongs we experience—done to us or to what we value—not for love for others. Examples of this include:

- Anger at not getting our way
- Anger at having our ideas challenged or refuted
- Anger at having our projects and pursuits interfered with
- Anger at having our self-promotion thwarted or name maligned
- Anger at being assaulted, injured, robbed
- Anger at having been embarrassed
- Anger of envy—someone else getting what we have wanted
- Anger of perceived unfairness—someone else having more than we do
- Anger when someone questions our authority, disobeys, or disrespects us
- Anger at having not lived up to the family standard

This type of anger leads to selfish acting out—seeking to take from another, hurt another, make another person pay for the wrong they have done to us, even killing another in order to protect self,



advance self, or promote self. It wants to ensure the wrong is punished, not remedied. This is the anger of sin and selfishness.

So, are we to have peace with everyone? Why or why not?

When are we to CAUSE divisions?

Are we to cause division, separation, segregation from disease, illness, evil, and those who willfully and knowingly spread it or obstinately refuse any interventions to heal and restore?

"Don't think that I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of people.³⁵ I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law.³⁶ A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family. (Matthew 10:34-36 *The Remedy*)

What sword is wielded to cut out selfishness—the sword of truth and love!

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “Sometimes unresolved conflict...” Do we agree that all forms of abuse are contrary to God’s kingdom of unselfish love?

Then why is it that abuse rates are no different in Christian homes than non-Christian homes? All of the following are the same:

- Domestic violence rates
 - physical abuse
 - emotional abuse
 - spiritual abuse
 - sexual abuse
- Child abuse rates both physical and sexual

Should people who claim Jesus as their Savior abuse their families less than people who do not?

Why is it then that this is not the case?

Because the true gospel of Jesus Christ has been, to a great degree, replaced with a fraud, a pagan construct that has a form of godliness but no power to transform.



All legal religions, including penal substitution theology, are based on the lie that God's law functions like human law. In this worldview, sin is legal, it is breaking rules, and thus it requires punishment. God, in order to be just must inflict punishment. The solution, in this false worldview, is to get someone to pay the penalty.

It is taught that Jesus came to earth, had all sins placed on Him and punished by the Father and this paid the legal penalty. Now what we need is to accept the legal penalty to get the record of our misdeeds erased from or properly legally accounted for in the heavenly courts. Then we are legally declared to be righteous, even though we are not.

There are other versions of the same basic falsehood: We must confess to a priest, take Eucharist, do penance, and have the priest intercede for us, and pray to Mary and the Saints to get the application of the sacrifice of Jesus to our legal account in heaven so we can get the legal penalty properly punished and our sins legally resolved.

But all of these teachings give people a false solution (false remedy) to a false diagnosis, and thus there is no healing, transformation, or recreation into Christlikeness. People stay selfish in heart and abuse their families.

But worse, studies show that the more religious one is the more likely they are to abuse their families—why? Because of design law—How things actually work in reality. The law of worship—by beholding we become changed. We actually become like the God we admire and worship. So, if we worship an imperial dictator, whose law works like human law, a system of rules that require infliction of punishment. Then the more ardent a follower of such a god the more we become intolerant of rule breakers and seek to impose what we believe to be right upon others—first our families, then our societies.

Conversely, studies show that people who pursue spiritual development, which is the development of internal maturity of character, abuse their families less. Meaning, the more spiritual i.e. mature in character, the less we abuse our families.

We only develop spiritually when we reject the lies about God and return to the truth of His character of love as revealed in Jesus and worship God as Creator, understanding His laws are design laws and that the punishment for sin comes from breaking the law, not from God. We must reject the legal lie which has corrupted so much of Christianity.

Bottom pink section reads, “How unfortunate that some cultures all but condone abuse of women. Why should no Christian ever fall into that kind of behavior, regardless of what their culture allows?”



Are their cultures in the world today that treat women as inferior to men—that don't allow women to be educated, own property, drive or be independent? They subjugate women to little more than property?

What is the cause of this? Do they have some false belief about men and women?

What about a religion that teaches that leaders must not marry and thus must remain celibate and only males can serve as priests?

What about churches that teach only males can be ordained? Do such teachings send messages that women are inferior to men?

Who would you rather have as your pastor, ordained and fully credentialed—Ellen G. White or David Koresh? Too obvious—what about EGW or Ted Wilson? Who do you think is more qualified to lead the church?

If you say EGW, how can it be—she is a female?

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “The writer of Hebrews...” Any concerns about the ideas described?

What about this, “Even when we take all the steps necessary, some people who have hurt us will still not listen and change.”

What is wrong with this statement?

They didn't say, “some people who have sinned against us” they said “some people who have hurt us.”

What is wrong with determining whether you have been wronged by whether you were hurt by someone? In other words, taking the position “If you hurt me then you did something wrong” what is wrong with this position?

It could be we experience hurt because we are wrong and the other person was correct! If we merely focus on our hurt feelings we can be deceived. We must instead, when hurt, focus on the truth—why am I hurt, not “hey you hurt me.”

How many times did the religious leaders in Christ's day get upset, offended, or their feelings hurt at something Jesus was saying or doing?



The disciples even tried taking the position of the lesson—to get Jesus to stop and perhaps make amends to the Pharisees:

“Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” Matthew 15:12 NIV84

One of the problems in society today is the idea that if I get my feelings hurt it is your fault.

The healthy approach is to step back and ask, “What is the truth? Why is this hurtful to me? Is it hurting my pride because I have gone on record with a wrong position? Have I been caught in the act of wrongdoing? Or, is the truth, no, I have done no wrong, the other person is actually sinning against me that is why it hurts?”

So, first assess the underlying reason—if the hurt is because of your own error then address it. If it is because of someone sinning against you, then decide whether there is a redemptive action you can take or not. Jesus remained silent when He was being mistreated abused and crucified, there was no action He could take that was going to stop them.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “Too often...”

What is the problem? It is inconsistency—the uncertainty of never knowing where the lines are causes terrible anxiety, and further instills distrust in the child, creates the attitude “it doesn’t matter what I do because it is all random, so do whatever I want.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Audio version of the Remedy is Now available for Streaming:** Download SoundCloud's free mobile app. **You do NOT have to purchase** a subscription! Just search for "Remedy NT" or use this link https://soundcloud.com/the_remedy_nt/albums and you will find and stream it at no cost. Just click "follow" on the album and you will go to it easily in the future. We are working to try and determine the best way to deliver the audio files in a free, secure, non-distributable, and non-editable way and would like to hear back from anyone who knows of such a service/method. We want it to be in a format that is what you want. We think CDs are not what people use any more, not sure memory sticks are the way to go, the platforms like SoundCloud or Audible in order to download require you to purchase an account with them. We are not inclined to set things up to require you to pay ongoing subscriptions to these platforms when we are giving away the product for free. So, any input from you on how best to deliver these files for free, OFF-LINE listening is greatly appreciated.
- Come and Reason with Dr. Tim Jennings weekly Podcast is now broadcasting, please follow us.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!** January 17-19, 2020, in Allen Texas (30 miles north of DFW airport) we will have a Come and Reason Ministries: The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. If you would like to be prepared to more effectively share this message then come to this course. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

References Requested:

I would like to compile a reference source for God's design laws, a list of Bible verses and other writers' quotations that describe God's various design laws.

Therefore, I am asking our listeners, whenever you come across a quotation from anyone, or a Bible verse, that describes or demonstrates a design law in action, please send it to us at: topics@comeandreason.com and put "**DL Reference**" in the subject line. Once we compile a sufficient list we will post it online for everyone to have.

June 8, 2019: Dr. Jennings will present The Aging Brain Seminar at Mid Columbia Medical Center, in The Dalles, OR.

June 28, 29, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Windsor SDA church in Windsor, Ontario Canada

July 10, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the 3rd Global Health Conference, sponsored by the General Conference of SDA and held at Loma Linda University.

July 19,20, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Living Truth SDA Church in London, Ontario Canada.

September 13,14, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Gentlebrook Intermediary Care Facility, Hartville, OH.

September 21, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown Delaware.

October 9-12, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth in the exhibit hall sharing our material with the attendees.