

BARRIERS

Revelation 3:20

What barriers are keeping Jesus out of your heart?

I. DOOR BARRIERS

A. SHUTTING GOD OUT

1. Through Delusion - Revelation 3:17
- Thinking things were great when they weren't
2. Through Corruption - Psalm 32:3-4
When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer. Selah.
3. Through Carelessness
 - a. Letting someone hinder your obedience - Galatians 5:7-9
You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion *did not come* from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump of *dough*.
 - b. You quit drawing near to God - James 4:8a
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
4. Through Callousness
 - a. A heart falling away from God - Hebrews 3:12
Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.
 - b. Grieving the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 4:30
And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - c. Quenching the Holy Spirit - I Thessalonians 5:19
Do not quench the Spirit;

B. SHUTTING GOD'S PEOPLE OUT

1. Through Viciousness - Galatians 5:15
But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.
2. Through Fussiness - Philippians 4:2-3
I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

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3. Through Bitterness - Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

II. DOOR BUSTERS

A. REMOVING BARRIERS WITH GOD

1. With Confession - Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah.

2. With Purity - James 4:8b

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

3. With Intensity - II Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

4. With Integrity - Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

B. REMOVING BARRIERS WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

1. With Forgiveness - Colossians 3:12-13

And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

2. With Graciousness - Romans 15:1-2

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

3. With Acceptance - Romans 15:7

Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

III. DOOR BLESSINGS

A. OPPORTUNITY - Hebrews 3:7-8

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

1. Jesus is at the door > Though we've shut Him out, He hasn't left
2. Our Lord is knocking > Trying to get our attention, He's not moving on or giving up

B. RESIDENCE - John 14:23

- Christ with God the Father at home in your heart

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.

C. RELATIONSHIP - Revelation 3:20b

1. Consider Christ's promise
2. Consider Christ's fellowship
 - Moving from the doorway to the dining room!

CONCLUSION:

Listen and learn (v. 22)

- Take a copy of the notes (or get them from our website) and examine these thoughts and Scriptures more slowly and carefully this week

Let us examine and probe our ways, And let us return to the LORD. We lift up our heart and hands toward God in heaven; - Lamentations 3:40-41

Jesus is knocking ... will you answer the door?

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