

STOP WHINING-START WINNING

Part Two

I. We Want You to WIN!

A. To Start Winning, You've Got to Stop Whining!

“Whiners never win...winners never whine.”

1. Last time, we showed you God's redemptive pattern and reminded you that it's an EXAMPLE for us today. (Cf. Exodus 4-25 with 1 Corinthians 10:1-13)
2. God brought Israel OUT of Egypt, THROUGH a wilderness, and INTO a Promised Land...but most of them didn't make it.
3. Over two dozen times, the Bible tells us the principle problem was a “whining” spirit! Here are just a few examples.

...and the people murmured against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”
Ex 15:24 KJV

And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:
Ex 16:2 KJV

And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: for he hath heard your murmurings.
Ex 16:9 KJV

And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death.
1 Cor 10:10-11 NLT

4. Their whining kept them from winning...and Paul said what happened to THEM was meant to be “examples” for US! Paul warns not to think we are above the same result!

Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
1 Cor 10:10-13 NASB

B. Define the Whine

1. A mouthful of wine won't keep you out of your promised land, but a mouthful of whining will!
2. Synonyms for “whining”: *grumbling, criticizing, finding fault, moaning, groaning, complaining, griping, bellyaching, nitpicking, moaning...had enough?*
3. We ought to drive all whining from our lives, our marriages and our homes! It's one of the biggest “blessing blockers” out there!
4. What's behind all this whining and complaining?

II. Getting to the Root of the Problem

“Entitlement” is the belief or attitude that one is deserving of, or entitled to certain privileges.”

A. An Attitude or Spirit of “Entitlement”

1. Sometimes the world is better at this than the Church. Here are some quotes from an editorial by Ruben Navarette, Jr. of the San Diego Union-Tribune, reprinted in the Austin American Statesman on Sunday, January 27, 2008:

Entitlement Is Our Enemy

Worried that Americans are on the brink of a recession — or perhaps already in the middle of one — the Bush administration and the House of Representatives have reached tentative agreement on an economic stimulus package.

Glad to hear it. A stimulus may not work exactly as expected, but it's worth a try. Americans are overtaxed as it is, and anything that gets more of their tax dollars back into their hands is a good thing. And if they spend what they get, it'll be good for the economy.

There's just one thing. You hear about how voters are angry and holding Congress' feet to the fire until they get some sort of relief. But let's not get so caught up in asking what government can do for us that we forget what we can do for ourselves.

The No. 1 economic threat facing the United States today isn't globalization, stagnant wages, unfair trade policy or illegal immigration.

And it certainly isn't what one cable TV demagogue glibly calls a "war on the middle class" by big media, big corporations and big special interests.

Rather, it's the sense of entitlement that many Americans take with them into the workplace and the eagerness with which they shift the blame when things don't go according to plan.

2. Now THAT is what's going on...and THAT is what's going wrong with America.

It wasn't always this way. Fifty years ago, Americans were a heartier bunch. They'd grown up in the Depression and defeated Nazi Germany and the other Axis powers during World War II, and they found honor in doing any kind of work. If they didn't earn enough money doing it, they took on another job, or another one after that. Most of all, they took pride in the idea that — in this country — our destiny is in our own hands.

Today, according to a survey of workers in their 20s and 30s, young Americans expect their jobs to provide not only a nice salary but also plenty of vacation time to enjoy it. And from research done by Jean Twenge, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University, we know that many members of "Generation Me" walk into job interviews brimming with self-esteem and expecting to be put on a path to a corporate vice presidency.

Is that all? And what if they don't get everything that they think they're entitled to?

That's when the blame comes in. Americans like to blame illegal immigrants for keeping wages low, or workers from India or China for taking high-skilled jobs. In either case, instead of accepting the challenge and trying to beat the competition, too many American workers will call out for protection. And again, some shameless politician will offer it.

B. Does Every Person in America DESERVE Medical Coverage?

1. It would be “nice.” It would be a “blessing.” It would make me happy. But am I really ‘ENTITLED’ to health care insurance? Is it the government’s responsibility to make sure I have it- even if I can’t pay for it?

2. Do you mean that a person too lazy to look for a job who gets cancer from smoking cigarettes is entitled to have working people pay his medical bills?

I'M **NOT** SAYING WE OUGHT NOT TRY TO HELP!

**We ought to have compassion for people who are sick,
and help people when we can...
but that's CHARITY—not an ENTITLEMENT.**

III. The Cure for Entitlement: A Return to Personal Responsibility

A. Four Things to Teach Your Kids Once You Believe Them Yourself

1. Life is difficult...deal with it.

*The bumper sticker says, "STUFF HAPPENS", (edited version).
It may be crude...but it's reality.

a. Speak truth. Don't mislead your children into thinking bad things don't happen to good people.

b. Many Americans live in a constant state of ingratitude, complaining and criticizing their country. So take a trip. Make the whole family go along. See how most of the world lives. Cultivate gratitude.

2. God's kingdom is set up so that maturity and rewards increase along with your ability to carry *responsibility* for yourself and for others.

a. Why should Dad buy you a leather basketball if your rubber one is always left out in the rain?

b. Why do our children think they are entitled to an allowance when they don't even make their beds in the morning?

c. Speaking of children, if you can't be trusted to do your homework when you should, what makes you think you're entitled to drive a car?

d. If you can't take care of your room, closet and personal areas, what makes you think you're entitled to own a home?

e. Homeowners- If you sign mortgage documents on a home you can't pay for, what makes you think it's the government's responsibility to see to it that you don't suffer foreclosure?

In the "parables of the Kingdom", Jesus describes Himself as the wealthy landowner who will return one day and demand an account of how we handled responsibilities given us.
(Matthew 25:14-30)

3. You're not entitled to anything you don't EARN.

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from

us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example. For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

2 Thess. 3:6-10 NASB

There's no free lunch!

4. You will never FEEL good about yourself until you DO good things!

- a. You ARE what you DO...Do good, then you will feel good!
- b. One of the biggest mistakes parents make is to praise and affirm their children, telling them how great they are, when they have not EARNED it.

A new study by five psychologists reveals that today's college students are more narcissistic and self-centered than previous generations. (Narcissus was the mythological character who fell in love with his own reflection in the pool and ended up drowning himself from depression). Consistently, these students made statements like: "I think I'm a special person" and "I think I can live any way I choose." The researchers traced the phenomenon back to the "self-esteem movement of the 1980's, where parents were told they needed to build self-confidence into their children by praising them and encouraging them, regardless of their behavioral performance. (Pre-schoolers were taught to sing "Frere Jaques" as, "I am special, I am special, look at me, look at me..." The study shows that these students "are more likely to have short-term romantic relationships with more infidelity and lacking emotional warmth, and to exhibit dishonesty, over-controlling and violent behaviors."

B. You Will be Judged for What You DO, Not What You *Intended* to Do.

1. The Common Excuse- "***I didn't INTEND to hurt anyone.***"

The tears we see when some national leader is admitting extra-marital sexual affairs have come too late. Why didn't this husband/father/leader think about the consequences of what he was ABOUT TO DO before he did it???

2. Human nature tends to judge others on what they DO but judge ourselves on what we INTENDED.

3. ***God DOES say you are entitled to a fair trial!!!***

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

2 Cor 5:10 NLT

4. Most powerful leaders fall because they have a sense of ENTITLEMENT- they see themselves above those they lead (or preach to). In their minds, they somehow feel their sins are justified or that they deserve extra grace because of their high position!

5. The fallen leader who confesses, saying “I didn’t INTEND to hurt anyone...” should have said, “I didn’t intend to get CAUGHT...”

6. So you haven’t committed adultery. But have you stolen pens and office supplies from your company?

In 2007, Spherion, a career recruitment agency, asked 2,000 employees if they had ever taken office supplies for their personal use. 20% admitted they had. Deeper study showed that the higher the income, the more likely they were to do it! Conclusion: The leading reason for employee pilfering is a sense of entitlement.

III. The Whining/Entitlement Connection

- A. In the Old Testament, a grumbling generation died in the wilderness.
- B. In the New Testament, an arrogant Israel refused to accept Christ. They simply couldn’t believe any message that offered God’s favor to ALL nations could be genuine.
- C. Jesus took the Kingdom away from Israel because, after all God’s special favors and attention, they had failed to produce Kingdom fruit.

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Matt 21:42-43 KJV

- D. To whom much is given, much is required. How are you doing with this?