

Cultural Thinkholes: Shortcuts

Series: Cultural Thinkholes (Sermon #3)

October 31, 2010

Thinkholes are common patterns of thought that pull people into unhealthy and unbiblical attitudes and habits.

Scripture

Philippians 4:8-9

8Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Acts 5:1-11

1Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

5When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price."

9Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

10At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Engage

What are some examples of shortcuts that you see Christians taking?

Discuss

1. Read the Philippians passage above. Verse 8 mentions “think on these things” and verse 9 mentions “putting things into practice”. Why is there sometimes a gap in what Christians think and do? What are some of the most common gaps? How can we eliminate the gaps?
2. Who you are before God is more important than the opinions of people. When do we see people making decisions to value human opinion more than God? Why do we feel the pressure of other’s opinions?
3. Building a good reputation is a marathon, not a sprint? Things that we say and do now may impact us for a long time. Why is our reputation so important as believers? What are some principles you follow to build your reputation?
4. Finding favor with people can ultimately glorify God. Distribute and read these verses and share any principles we learn.

Luke 2:52, Acts 2:42, Prov. 3:3-4, 1 Peter 2, Proverbs 22.

5. Because of grace, we can recover from a stained reputation. How does I
 - a. Confess the sin to God quickly.
 - b. Admit it to everyone involved.
 - c. Repent and don’t look back.

Challenge

What can we do this week to stop doing any shortcuts in our lives and focus on being all that God has called us to be?

Other Passages Cited

Matthew 5

Prov. 28:27

1 Peter 4:17

Prov. 29:25