

# Getting Rid of Crust

By Bob Stone

Bob Stone:

He's in that circle. Now we've got to protect ourselves. Because it hurts to hurt. Right. So we build layer after layer after layer around ourselves. Inside that inner circle hurt outside solid circles bitterness. That's what was said yesterday. Well why didn't you do it that fast yesterday we could have been out there in five minutes.

All right. So now. My first beautiful principal is Father heal my broken heart. And I challenge every single person in this gymnasium this afternoon to memorize that verse. He heals the broken in heart. And binds up their wounds. So I hope you get this time does not heal a broken heart it only forms a scab over it. And then anger and bitterness and resentment and hatred sets in. I don't know if that's happened to you. I don't know what you've gone through. Some people say why do you use such extreme illustrations. Hold the phone. A major reason why I do this is because if God can work in those lives. He can work in yours. He can work in my life. He can work in yours. OK so. The beautiful definitions that I gave and I'm given some review here for you who aren't too swift humor. All right. Bind in the Hebrew means to wrap firmly broken in heart means shattered crushed broken to pieces bruised. Now I ask the question for all of those who were here yesterday or there yesterday in that other auditorium is that you even the men I was addressing that to the men of this college to us who are rough and tough and hard to diaper see spit into the wind got so much pride it smells all the way to heaven sometimes I think it takes

a man to admit when he's when he's wrong and when he's in need. It's not none manly Okay Ladies hey man. Okay. And then heal in the Hebrew means to men by stitching. That is so gorgeous. I beat up my grandmother to hear that again.

Now that second principle first one we're dealing with that inside circle you're getting this. Now we've got to deal with the outside solid ones. And you talk about getting basic where it is. If we're not applying the basics we're in trouble. So confess your blank to God. Now I'm not gonna come all the way from Alabama to your campus here and put s i n s in there. I'm not that dumb. Let's get more specific. Anger stinkin attitudes bitterness hatred. You got any of that. Now this is weird. But remember so am I. Never been happier since I've been weird. I got it viewed like this. I put my fingers into a circle here and this is the love pipe concept look it here. There is some blockage in that pipe due to anger. Oh and there is some more due to bitterness and there is some resentment and there is some hatred. Look at there's not much love trickling through there is there. Now here's what's happened. Every single time. It has never once failed. When I ask a person do you love the person on the other side of the wall from you. The person that's hurt you the most. They'll answer one of these two ways one. I got this log see. Not like I should. The other answer is not like I used to. And they'll let me ask some questions. Start digging around and what will I find. Every single time blockage in the love pipe not much loved trickling through there.

So here comes the basic verse. Say good night I learned that in Vacation Bible School. What are you doing popping that on us today. It is so well known in my opinion. Most Christians yawn in the middle of it. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and the

cleanses from all unrighteousness. Hey that's true. You know I had a woman ask me what all men in that verse and I. Good night. You talked about a basic question why did she ask me that super basic question? So I asked her why she asked me. And she started crying. She said because I've had three abortions three miscarriages I'm two months pregnant and I've never been married. Please tell me what all means all means everything. Do you believe that that he will forgive you for the worst thing you've ever done? Over there in the Psalms 51 David's looked out over the edge of the palace. There is a woman down there taking a bath. Have you ever thought of this usually when a person takes a bath. They don't have any clothes on. Unless they're doing their laundry at the same time I guess. And so now David gets his servants to go down there and check it. Who is that you know? They come back. They're named Bathsheba. Okay. Get down here and get her. Bring her back. Do you think those servants didn't know what he was up to? He had sex with this married woman. Well no one's gonna find out about this except those servants and they won't talk. They've got loyalty. Then he finds out later. Oh good night. She's pregnant. Am I in trouble? No. I'll get out of this when I'll have her husband come back from war. You know Uriah. I think her mother was mad at him. Call him Uriah and brought him back from war you know the story right. Give him some R and R and maybe everything will be smooth over here. He'll look back later and find out his wife got pregnant he was home on vacation you know from the front lines and got out of that one in a hurry. Right. Wrong. What happened the next morning David woke up and found out that Uriah slept on the ground all night. Can you imagine what that did to David's heart when he found out why? How can I give my error? How can I enjoy the pleasures of life? While my men are giving their lives in battle. Look at the loyalty Uriah had to David. Wow.

Now he sends or right out front lines has the other men retreat he gets killed in Psalms 51. David cries out wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. I said to that woman that had the abortions. Have you ever seen snow? She's from New York. Yeah you've seen snow. Have you ever seen it before everyone drove in it? People walked in it is about thirty two degrees out and everyone you know. You could see it hanging on their every little limb and every little twig and it is so beautiful gorgeous. That's how God views you washed in the blood of the lamb.

I let me tell you the grossest one I've ever experienced. Say good night some of those others men really gross. She's 18 years old she drove 100 miles to come see me. She sat down and said why are you here. And she said I've been having an affair. I looked over at her hand and she didn't have a ring on. That doesn't necessarily mean anything. But she used the word affair and I said Are you married or single. She said I'm single. I said you use the word affair that means he's married right. How long has this been going on? Two and a half years. You are 18 and it's been going on for two and a half years. You were 15 and when this. Are we talking sex there lady? Yes. Can I ask you a question? Why would you have an affair with a married man? She looked back at me and said I listen to the last word in the sentence. Well his wife was missing not that his wife ran out on him or left him. His wife was missing. She had just found out two days before she came in to see me the reason why she'd been missing for three years. He had murdered her. This is being taped isn't it hit her in the left eye with evidently the poker from the fireplace put a cord around her neck strangled her to death carried her upstairs while the three children was sleeping cut off her head cut off all four limbs buried her in five plastic bags in a hole he had dug in the backyard and build a cement fish pond over it I was telling our son in law about this. And

David looked at me and said Dad would God forgive a man who murdered his wife? Now this is a case that went every place I went. Folks I found myself. Waking up at 2 o'clock in the morning unable to go back to sleep. I thought I caught myself thinking about on a tennis court in the middle of a match. I started crying on a plane and I looked back at our son in law and said David I believe the answer is yes as long as one thing was true. That the repentance came from his heart and not his lips. Didn't God offer forgiveness to those who crucified his son? Yes and dear friend he'll forgive you for what you've done. If that repentance comes from your heart are you up to date.

Have you confessed to come clean with God about the resentment and the anger and the bitterness that you've had toward the person that's hurt you the most that's my big question this afternoon now think of this inside that inner circle father heal my broken heart. Scripturally I believe that's the way you deal with it even though that won't be a magic wand. But that will be the time when this if the stitches are in the bleeding will stop and then God will can complete the healing by using time. Now we're dealing with the outside solid circles by confession.

If you've applied or when you apply those two principles can you picture something? You being a person with no circles around you. And not to be sacrilegious. But here's what I believe and I don't mean to be sacrilegious when it comes from our heart. That confession we're agreeing with God. See no excuses. Yeah but my dad came home drunk and he beat my mother. No you you are responsible for you. Just like I'm responsible for me yeah. But there was something you. You're responsible for you know stop this stop this finger pointing blame placing justification rationalizations and come clean and agree with God. That you're wrong and you confess it. I

believe that's that's like applying God's spiritual drain cleaner. It cleans out that love pipe you see and not what happens. His love His love not ours. Ours or run out of gas. Right. His love starts flowing powerfully in that life. And through that life. My mommy done told me ready for another one. Whether you are or not. Here it comes.

Number three forgive yourself. I believe that is something that has set in so many people free from the stuff that they have carried around for months or years sometimes. Most of their life I got two concepts. Here's the first one. The invisible club concept All right I met. Where was I. Hume Lake in California. California is not too far from here. So I'm up in the mountains with 300 college students I mentioned the word abortion. I didn't get gross. I didn't talk about the four different kinds. What that does to the child. I just merely mentioned the term a woman in the audience started crying. She got louder and louder and finally she got so embarrassed she jumped up and ran out of the auditorium. Her friend sitting next to her jumped up and ran with her and after I got through her friend came up to me and said she wants to talk to you. So I went in this private room the friend left and I looked at her and said you have one. She said yes. Would I be allowed to know how long ago and she said six years. Does the man know? Yes. What was he like and how did he respond when you told him. Said it wasn't his typical man. So I let her talk about it and found out. Good night. That woman every time she heard about a little baby being born every time she saw the calendar every time she thought of that guy. Every time she heard of premarital sex. What was she doing? [Yells] You all with me now. She would hit herself with his invisible club. Have you been doing that?

I think it's very natural if you have been walking backwards it's like the hitchhiker walks see.

He's walking this way but he's looking this way. That's kind of a nervous walk isn't it? You. Fall

over a curb step into a hole you know all kinds of. All right here's what I found every time someone will come to me and I'll find out they haven't forgiven themselves and they've done something back there. OK. And I'll ask him have you ever told anybody anywhere anybody about this. And they'll sometimes say well yeah OK did you get any help. Yes yes unbelievable help. Well did the person know exactly what you did back there or not? And get specific but they they knew that something was in my past. And I just kept in general. OK. Did they possibly tell you to forget your past that the pages of tomorrow are all clean? Yeah. Did they give you any verse or verses for that out of Scripture? Yeah. When I can't remember where it was. Well how about Philippians chapter 3. Yeah. OK. Forgetting those things which are behind I pressed toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Yeah that's it. That's it. That's the verse. Those are the verses they gave me. OK. It's 13:14 did that help you. Oh yes. Hey. Got some bad news for you when you look at that passage in context. Those two verses aren't even talking about sin back there. They're talking about the things we've done for the Lord. Don't you concentrate on what you've done for the Lord. There's a lot yet more to be done. Oh is that what those verses are about. See forgetting your past is not the key. Forgiving your past is the key now.

Come to our house on a Monday. I just told the crowd that was in this last session this morning that I did that. I just started taking Mondays off. In 1965. And so I'm kind of new at it when I'm not traveling. That is a day when I keep everything at arm's length except my wife. Now someone said to me yesterday hey how come we hear so many negative things about marriage it scares the willies out of me. I said well I think you've got to. I didn't say this but I want to say it now. I think you've got to have both eyes open. You've got to have that one cautious eye open

and then see the positive things over here with the other eye. I am so in love. I can hardly stand it. You know we have a screened in porch on our house and we live in an area that's kind of mountainous. And so there's a beautiful creek that flows by the back of our house. And our house. Oh the backyard goes from about here to that microphone stand over there and then drops off. And I'll tell you more about that tomorrow when we talk about. How do you deal with that wall that stinking cotton pickin wall. And so someone built had to have paid for the screened in porch to be built on our house. That is the favorite spot for my wife in our whole house. So Mondays we go out there and have a romantic breakfast. And I have to carry a club. Beside my chair just to control that woman out there on that porch. We play we play table games every single night when I'm not traveling. We don't play when I'm traveling because I'm not home. And so what do we do. We play backgammon for games and backgammon four games of a game called golf. And then double dominoes and skip-O yeah. And and we keep score each week is a brand new tournament. The winner of the tournament gets a 10 minute back rub. Oh yes. We go for long walks together. We play tennis about twice a week. We love to date each other. And then I can only have a couple hours about that. All right.

So here we are on a Monday. You don't come with me or come near me with a 10 foot pole. Don't answer the phone. No ministry. That's hers lady comes to the door and she knocks and says to my wife I I know it's Monday but I've got to see him now did my wife go. Yes come back. Get out ahead. Stay off. She's well-trained. So she. She let the lady in. Now. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. I didn't train her. She just responds in love. All right. So I'm downstairs in my shop I love woodworking I love to make sawdust and stuff you know. So you can't even see across. The shop. The whole room is just full of sawdust. You know and she brings this woman

downstairs and I got my old cut offs. I got a pair of tennis shoes that I've been working on for years to break in. If I walk too fast my toe comes right out the end. You know that. I don't have a shirt on that's humorous right there. And so the woman. Doesn't. She's very very wise she doesn't say Oh good morning Bob. She quickly said I know what your day off. My wife went upstairs and this woman took the cap off and went over to my workbench and I counted them after she left one hundred and fifty nine pills and looked at me and said I thought I'd give these to you today instead of taking them lady you have a seat right here in the sawdust. And so we talked for a while and something was in her past for six long years. She's walking backwards. She was carrying that invisible club and I wish I had had a videotape of what she looked like when she came in and what she looked like when she left and I'm not stretching this story. The woman's countenance was different. All right here's my point. The next day she called me up and she said I got one for you. Stone You ready. You can't turn your back on your sins until you face them. Yes.

One more time. By popular demand you can't turn your back on your sins until you face them face them how scripturally have you or even been trying to forget or you've been trying to keep busy so you you could just keep going. Or did you go so long and so hard each day that then you were able to get to sleep because you were so tired and you try to pretend they weren't there that it didn't happen that you weren't gross that that particular time. Those aren't scriptural answers my friend when is God's presence the greatest. That's a good question. I believe there are two things that popped to my mind when I hear that question. One would be during a crisis You ever gone through something really really really really heavy?

Quickly let me tell you in our counseling center in Birmingham Alabama Bob Palmer is my partner there. We worked together 21 years now when we were in youth ministry uh probably 20 years ago. It was time for him to go out to Camp where we were running a 10 week camping program put four or three new tires on didn't get the time to get the fourth on on. He and his wife and two children went out to the camp 40 miles. She started back to town with that car and the fourth tire blew car went over and over seven times down the median there and and I was to the hospital before Bob was in fact she was in such bad shape when I saw her I walked right by her bed and didn't even recognize who she was. Her face had hit the steering wheel and that side door posed so many times she was beyond recognition. Her head was about this half again the size of normalcy and I watched my partner sit at the foot of that bed side of that bed and singing to her in her coma. Read scripture to her every morning relive some beautiful times they'd had in their short marriage. And eight weeks later she died. I watched a soldier in my buddy respond to losing the most important person on the face of the earth to him. Maybe your situation wasn't that strong but maybe it was when your parents were fighting and your mother was at your dad with that butcher knife. Or maybe they got a divorce or your dad pulled out. You haven't seen him since. Or whatever your situation what did you experience the Presence of God in a very powerful way. If you've never had that happen to you I guess down inside I feel sorry for you what's another answer.

When we've sinned when we've sinned but have you ever noticed different people respond differently. Like for example the strong willed child. She comes out of his mother's womb kind of go like that see and ordering the nurses around up there at the hospital. Get your cold hands off me and where's my supper. And I've been traveling around doing my my marriage

conferences and challenging or asking this question if you are a parent you have more than one child. You have opposites don't you. And about 90 percent of the time they will say we got opposites. So I have been challenging young couples just starting their family who have one child and that child is easygoing respectful obedient. Stop having children. Because that other one's on the way the other one's on the way. All right. Have you ever realized this all that strong willed child has a hard time? Admitting they're wrong that. Strong willed child is a hard time forgiving so. Some people when they sin have a hard time going to God and admitting that but here's a situation you want to feel is right here. That's my tennis racket callous they call excuse me. When I when I don't play around December and first part of January why that disappears all when I start playing again it'll be red. Be tender and then the more I play the thicker it'll get and I've been in counselling sessions I'll just tell you among our girls here that thing I'll get so gross that I'll find myself peeling it off and then throwing it away after the people leave. You know after the counseling session what did I just say to you. Oh sometimes when we sin over and over and over we build a callus over our conscience don't we. I'm trying to see if you are willing to say oh God this is me. I've been wrong. I'm willing to face it.

Now in forgiving yourself. Oh good night. If you're not careful you beat yourself to death. You walk backwards you try to keep busy you try to run all kinds of thing and try to forget it doesn't work because it's like a cloud that goes every place we go right. You can't run fast enough to get away from this. So what's the key? Forgetting is not the key. Forgiving is the key. You can't turn your back and use on your sins until you face them. So what am I saying to you? What do I recommend? OK.

I forgot I was gonna do this so I'll just let you picture it. By looking at your sins through the eyes of God. OK let's use the campus crusade approach here. Here's God up at the top there and here's man down at the bottom. Jesus comes to die on the cross. He came to die not just to live. He's the way to God. OK. John 14 6 I knew all that. But how do you forgive yourself by looking at your sins through the eyes of God. How are you going to do that through scripture? What are you going to find if you go to scripture? You're going to find a view of you. You're gonna find out how God actually sees you. Let's look at some of those passages. Yes you know that one don't you. You had to memorize that for one of your classes. There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus who walked not after the flesh but after the spirit. No condemnation. Then what are you doing condemning yourself. How about this one. Their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 8 12. Jude only has one chapter so down to verse 24 says your stand you stand there faultless before him. You mean clean. That's right. Micah 7:19. He will again have compassion on us. He will cast all our sins in the depths of the sea. Psalms 103:12 far as least is from the West. So far as he removed our transgressions from us I don't know about you but that's good news to me. Why didn't you say I'll put your sins as far as the North is from the south? Have you ever heard of the West pole no you just keep going and going and going and going and never right never finding.

Okay here's the wrap up. Let you out early father since you forgiven me. Who in the world am I to hold this stuff against myself. So if you're ready you can do it right here where you sit so you're already applied number two confess your blank to God. You've already come clean. Okay then you're ready for this one possibly then right now I forgive me too watch me throw away that

club right turn around because you've dealt with your past scripturally and the lady that had the abortion in California and mount Hume at Hume Lake wrote me a letter six months after I was out there here's the way it went Dear Bob when you were out in California six months ago you gave me a gift I stopped reading I thought wait a minute I don't remember. In a weak moment did I give her some tapes or a book or something like that without charge its not like me. Then I kept reading. She said you pointed me in the direction of freedom. Yes and you can be free to. You can know what it's like to have come clean and had the God of the universe who sent Jesus to die for you who would forgive a man who murdered his wife. He'll forgive you too march on

Father I thank you for the opportunity to sharing this this afternoon some more truth some super basic truths in principle too and maybe some new truths to their ears. In principle three whatever the case may be old or new. I pray it will be applied because I know you want us free free from all that garbage. So we can move on to the wall and deal with that scripturally and father. I'm gonna do something dangerous right now. I'm gonna pray that there'll be so much interest. In dealing with that wall that maybe even some trips that were planned for tomorrow will be postponed until it's over because what if that could make a difference and I appreciate the pressure they're under and the schedules they have. But father if this could make a major difference in their life I pray that they'll do whatever has to be done or can be done to get in on that session tomorrow morning eight thirty thank you for providing all the truth that we need to be victorious. You have been so patient with us and I express from my heart the gratitude that's in there. How patient you've been with me and I long to pass on this truth. Fertile soil and I pray that that's what's being experienced here. It's falling on fertile soil. Open hearts in Jesus name amen. Thank you.

Stone: Getting Rid of Crust

[Applause]