

#3087 – January 29, 2008 – Guest Speaker Erwin Lutzer

[Lutzer:] When we are bonded to Christ we have the resources to break those other bonds that still keep leading us to sin and putting us under the sphere of influence of people who in the end will destroy us.

[Easley:] Dr. Erwin Lutzer, the Pastor of the Moody Memorial Church for 27 years, Author of over 30 books, array of titles that is absolutely mind-boggling; One Minute After You Die, Winning the Inner War, Saying No to a Stubborn Habit, Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible. On and on this guy goes, Jon.

[Gauger:] Michael Easley, our Bible Teacher on *PROCLAIM!*, welcoming Erwin Lutzer today in our teaching slot. He's a Speaker next week, Dr. Lutzer, at the Moody Bible Institute Founder's Week Conference, Michael, and I know you're pretty excited about that.

[Easley:] Well, Erwin is an amazing Bible teacher. Every time the guy opens the Word I just want to say I should give it up. He's an extraordinary Bible Teacher and we are delighted to have him on *PROCLAIM!*.

[Gauger:] Well, today on *PROCLAIM!* he speaks to us about breaking soul ties and let's get right to his teaching segment; Erwin Lutzer.

[Lutzer:] I call this the elusive exclusive bond. Elusive exclusive, what do I mean by that? There are some people today who because of their past find it very difficult to get married because they, they are not sure that they'd be able to maintain a commitment to one partner. Understandably so they've been bonded to this person, bonded to that person, God joined them over here, one flesh the Scripture says, one flesh with this person, one here. And so, I've had people describe their souls to me as being scattered because it was never God's intention that it be that way. And so, as a result, they go along in life.

I remember one woman telling me with tears that she slept with other boyfriends until the night before her wedding to her guy because she was thinking, this is contemporary thought now, you don't have to really be committed to one person until you're married. What do you think? Do you think that she was true to her bond after she was married? What makes us think that in an immoral man we'll become moral just because he said some words and his appetite and his values have not been changed by God? How can we possibly be so naïve?

Do you understand now why young people say to each other, "Well, you know what we'll do, we'll just do it once and God will forgive us." I've had them say, you know, "What's the blood of Christ for if He can't forgive this? What's it all about?" God does forgive us. As a matter of fact, the next message in this series is on God's forgiveness. But the simple fact is once you have been involved nothing will ever quite be the same again. Well, what do we do about it? First of all, there is cleansing, there's cleansing. The Bible says that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us, but to cleanse us also. The reason that cleansing is so important some people who are forgiven have never been cleansed. Cleansing is the subjective work of God by which our consciences are purged. As long as you're filled with self-condemnation, you'll never be able to put your past behind you. But it's the cleansing of the conscious. It's not only being pure, but sensing that the defilement of the relationships are gone. So, there is cleansing and that's available to you today, my friend. There is also what I'm going to call fleeing, fleeing. The Bible says, "Flee youthful lusts."

Could I speak candidly to you today? I think I've been pretty candid, have I not been? I like to speak plainly. I don't like it when people leave saying what does he really believe. Do you realize, folks, that there is some people that we should stay away from? There is some people who have such awesome power, soul power, connectedness, that we could come under their spell and we too could be among those

who leave it all behind to find the love of our life and to find this, and rejoice in this soul mate; and then, all that we need to do is to add some verses of Scripture we could say, and it is God who brought this soul mate to me. We're all capable of that. There are some people who should not know your telephone number, or some people whose telephone numbers you should not have because all of us are vulnerable to soul ties, which have an awesome; particularly those of you who have been past relationships.

A woman said to me one time, she said, "You know, I, when I think of going to a city in which there is the man with whom I had the first relationship which was so beautiful." She didn't marry him. In fact, she wasn't even -- he wasn't even a Christian, but she said it was a, we had a wonderful thing going. And, she said, "When I go to that city," she said, "I would not even dare go alone because I'm afraid I might call him up and we might begin to have a relationship all over again." That's not an example of weakness folks, that's wisdom; that's applying the Scripture that says, "Flee immorality." So, there's such a thing as fleeing. It is often been said that when you flee temptation don't leave a forwarding address. Many people say I'm going, but I want you to know where I'm going to end at. Contact me if you can. Break it off.

One day there was a pastor here in this city many, many years ago. Fell into immorality, lost his church, but wanted to restore his marriage. I had come to know him. He was a wonderful preacher. And, he called me on the telephone and I said, "The way you break off this relationship with this woman is you do it over the telephone with your wife present, and make sure it ends." And, he said, "Well," he said, "Erwin, actually, I'm not going to do it that way. I feel I should see her one more time." Can you guess the rest of the story? Of course he left his wife, married her for greener pastures, which in the end turned out to be a desert.

So, we have cleansing, we have fleeing, we have communicating. What do I mean by communicating? I mean wholesome relationships. Why do you think the early church was so powerful that it changed its world upside down? I'll tell you why. It says that it was united, the believers were united in vision, in passion, and in relationship. I'm misinterpreting it a little bit, but at my age I can be forgiven if I'm sliding a little bit over this. But that's what it really says. It says they were -- oh, yeah, I think I'm getting it right. United in one heart, one soul, one mind; something like that. Wow. With one heart, one soul, one mind; those are positive bondings that overcome and protect us from all the negative and destructive bonds that we're talking about. How do you like this for a bond? Though shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Wow, what a bond that's to be. We're to be bonded to God, first of all. And, it is those healthy relationships that fill the vacuum, that give us the grace to stay away from the other bonds, and to remember that we should guard our hearts with all diligence. Why? Because those hearts can be open to wrong kinds of hearts and wrong kinds of relationships.

You say well, Pastor Lutzer, what do you have to say to those of us who have a history of bonding, wrong relationships? In the Old Testament there was Prophet by the name of Hosea and he had a wife who went from one lover to another. There's evidence that she was not just with one lover, but that she fell into the hands of a man eventually who could not even take care of her, and Hosea, out of love, actually gave the man money so that that man could give money to his wife. Talk about love on the part of Hosea. But God says this regarding her, he says, "I will take her into the desert and I will allure her." Why the desert? Listen, there's some people who don't wake up until they're in a desert. As long as they have one little drop of water to drink they'll stay away from God no matter how bitter it is. "So, I'll take her into the desert. I will allure her. I will speak tenderly to her," God says, "and I'll win her back." "And, she shall sing there as in the days of her youth," the Bible says. And, the whole idea is this; that she shall be like a virgin again.

One day many years ago a young man came to me and asked about a certain lady who was here in the Moody Church who, before she was saved, had a series of alien bonding relationships. And, he asked my opinion. And, I said, “Well, she is no longer a virgin in her body, but she is a virgin in her heart. I really do believe that there is something to the fact that God is a God of new beginnings.” However strong those bonds have been we need not be subject to them for we have allegiance to a new leader, and we’ve been bonded to Christ. And, when we are bonded to Christ we have the resources to break those other bonds that still keep leading us to sin and putting us under the sphere of influence of people who in the end will destroy us rather than bless us. They will curse us rather than give us hope in our journey of life. The bonds are broken.

What does the hymn writer say? I love these words. “He breaks the power of cancelled sin.” Many of you, your sin has been cancelled. I mean, you know, you’ve been forgiven. But the power is still there. “He breaks the power of cancelled sin. He sets the prisoner free. His grace can make the vilest clean. His blood availed for me.”

[Gauger:] And, we’ll hear more from Erwin Lutzer next week live at Founder’s Week, the annual Bible conference sponsored by Moody Bible Institute. Erwin Lutzer, a terrific teacher, Michael.

[Easley:] Along with a great line-up of Dennis Rainey, Josh McDowell, Tony Evans, Tommy Nelson; just a phenomenal week. And, if you’re in the area, we want to encourage you, come and participate in some of the sessions.

[Gauger:] That’s right.

[Easley:] And, you can go to our website at www.proclaim.mbn.org, that’s www.proclaim.mbn.org, and find out all the details about Founder’s Week.

[Gauger:] Again, that website, www.proclaim.mbn.org. Also there at the website, ordering information on our Romans CD sets. These are terrific, a great way to reinforce what you’ve been hearing on the broadcast. Play it again, share it with a friend, use it as a resource for your own listening library. Again, we’ve got two different sets of 7 CDs each, 14 messages in each set; Chapters 1-4, Chapters 5-8. Check it all out online at www.proclaim.mbn.org.

And then, why not think about jotting us an email. Our address, proclaim@moody.edu. Sherry writes, “I listen to Dr. Easley in the mornings on WIHS. Boy, what a blessing he is to listen to.” Well, that’s a great encouragement, Sherry. Thanks for sharing with us. You can write to us, again, at proclaim@moody.edu, proclaim@moody.edu.

PROCLAIM! is produced by a team. That includes our Executive Producer Tim Svoboda, Nate McMillan, Dan Anderson, and, of course, our Teacher Michael Easley. I’m Jon Gauger, see you Wednesday here for more *PROCLAIM!*.