

# Restorative Justice



*The Healing Power of Rehabilitation*

# Sin, Injury, and Injustice

- ❖ Sin creates injury. The pain we suffer can give birth to negative thoughts.
- ❖ It can affect the way we look not just at the person who hurt us, but the people and institutions connected to that person.
- ❖ Think about how people often view the church because of those who call themselves Christians, but do not live so.

# Sin, Injury, and Injustice

- ❖ Carrying around these grudges can do an enormous amount of damage to us.
- ❖ Consider Haman and Mordecai.

# Biting and Devouring

- ❖ An inability to forgive can wreak havoc not just in our personal relationships, but also in society at large.
- ❖ Consider all the events of the recent few years, and how many people are now being excoriated for things that happened decades ago.

# Biting and Devouring

- ❖ “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another” (Galatians 5:13-15).

# Winning Your Brother

- ❖ What lies at the root of this?
- ❖ Usually it's not about truly seeking justice. It's about making ourselves feel superior to those we are tearing down.
- ❖ This reveals the backwards priorities our society has cultivated.

# Winning Your Brother

- ❖ God rejoiced to see the repentance of Ahab (1 Kings 21:25-29) and Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:10-20).
- ❖ We should seek, as Jesus said, to win our brother back.
- ❖ This is true not just in our relationships within the household of God, but in ALL instances.