

12—Not Abandoned

4/3/22

INTRO:

I. → Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

→ 36 *As it is written:*

*“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

→ 38 *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

II. Attachment Theory

A. Attachment Theory (John Bowlby, 1950s)

B. Attachment Patterns (Mary Ainsworth, 1960s & 70s)

C. 1987 Cindy Hazen & Phillip Shaver applied it to adults

BODY:

I. The Need for Stability

A. Abandonment can leave us with lasting anxiety and insecurity.

1) Neglect or separation from caregivers:

a) Disinhibited Attachment Disorder

b) Insecure-ambivalent (Ainsworth)

c) Anxious-preoccupied (Hazen & Shaver)

2) **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned.

B. People need more than just food, shelter and clothing.

1) **John 14:18-20**

"No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live." (NLT)

2) **THE MOVE FROM ORPHANAGES TO FOSTER CARE**

3) **PHOTO OF THE TWO LITTLE KIDS**

II. The Need for Safety

A. Hurt from the past can make us avoidant of relationships.

1) Abrupt change or lack of response from caregivers

a) Inhibited Attachment Disorder

b) Dismissive-avoidant (Ainsworth)

c) Insecure-avoidant (Hazan & Shaver)

2) **ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT (1997)**

3) **Matthew 13:15**

"For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

I tried so hard, my dear, to show that you're my every dream
Yet you're afraid each thing I do is just some evil scheme
A memory from your lonesome past keeps us so far apart
Why can't I free your doubtful mind and melt your cold, cold heart?
Hank Williams—The Hillbilly Shakespeare

B. The only way to heal bad memories is by creating good ones.

1) **1 Peter 4:8-9**

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

2) Grk (*agápe*) unconditional love

3) PSUEOSCIENTIFIC "ATTACHMENT THERAPY"

4) WHEN THE GLACIERS MELTED

III. The Need for Security

A. The worst feeling of all is not knowing who to trust.

1) Abuse or abandonment of caregivers

a) Disorganized/disoriented (Ainsworth)

b) Fearful-avoidant (Hazen & Shaver)

i) Desire for intimacy

ii) With a conflicting feelings of uncomfortableness

iii) Distrust of themselves and others

2) **Deuteronomy 31:8**

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

3) INSTANT FAMILY—WE ARE HERE

B. The only cure for abandonment is unconditional love.

1) **1 Corinthians 13:6-8**

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

2) FOREVER PARENTS

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Psalms 139:7-10

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

Isaiah 66:12-13

"You will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you."