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Perry Hill Road Bulletin

The Truth of Consequences

A man went to see his doctor in an acute state of anxiety. "Doctor," he said, "you have to help me. I'm dying. Everywhere I touch it hurts. I touch my head and it hurts. I touch my leg and it hurts. I touch my stomach and it hurts. I touch my chest and it hurts. You have to help me, Doc, everything hurts."

The doctor gave him a complete examination. "Mr. Smith," he said, "I have good news and bad news for you. The good news is you are not dying. The bad news is you have a broken finger."

Sometimes we overlook the most obvious connections. Maybe at times, as in the example above, we're not always as bright as we should be. But more often it's because many folks have a tendency to blame someone or something else for something that went wrong rather than accept responsibility for their own actions. From weight loss pitches to financial failure fixes the message is often the same—"It's not your fault." But the flip side that's not often addressed is this: the sooner I admit my problem is my fault or responsibility, the further I am down the road to fixing it. The Bible says, "Whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). Paul uses this simple rule of cause and effect when he instructs, "Rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval" (Romans 13:3). This principal applies to every arena of our lives. There are consequences to our action and inaction. That's the truth. When we deny that or when we as a society disconnect unpleasant consequences from wrong behavior, everyone suffers for it.

Since Adam & Eve God has been teaching humanity that there are consequences for both good and bad choices. If we'll get in the habit of seeing the connection between what we do or say and what follows, we will hurt and be hurt less. *Brad Frye*

