

The Shroud of Offense

Forgiveness is the key to releasing offense

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

1. Jeremy taught us that a perceived offense can cover our lives like a shroud. When someone offends us, we can unwisely carry that offense to our own detriment. When we carry an offense, how is it like punching ourselves in the face...punishing ourselves because of someone else's sins against us? Jeremy said that unforgiveness is beating ourselves up in hopes that it hurts someone else. Pastor Joel often says that unforgiveness is a punishment that you give yourself for someone else's sins. What are some ways that unforgiveness hurts us? Remember to think Biblically. (Hint: Check out and read through the Additional Scriptures)
2. Jeremy noted that there is such a difference between being a fan of Jesus, and a follower of Jesus Christ. When a person doesn't care about pleasing God, obeying His word, or living God's way, that person is living like a fan. When it comes to forgiveness, what's the difference between fan based living and follower based living?
3. Jeremy noted that forgiveness is a choice. The Bible teaches us to choose forgiveness. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling. However, forgiveness is also a command. It is incompatible that forgiven people would not be forgiving people. What does the Bible say about forgiveness as a choice, and forgiveness as a command for Jesus' people?
4. Finally, how does Satan, our enemy, speak lies to us, with the intent of creating disunity and unloving Christians, to derail us from walking in the Spirit. How does walking in the Spirit set us free from the works of the flesh...including unforgiveness.

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Mark 11:25
- Matthew 6:14-15
- Ephesians 4:31-32
- Hebrews 12:14

- Colosians 3:12-13
- 1 John 4:20
- Matthew 18:21-25

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- Are there specific names that come to mind as you pray who need your forgiveness? Have you been holding unforgiveness towards someone in your life, and would you agree with God's Word to let it go, forgive, and move on?
- Since we are in a spiritual fight, how shall we specifically resist the Devil and his schemes so that we can walk through the door of forgiveness and find freedom in Christ?