The Art of Sorry

pt.2 - The Right Stuff

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." - Colossians 3:12 NIV

"The fruit of the Spirit is is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." - Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

"The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like." - Galatians 5:19-20 NIV

God is more concerned with \overline{WHO} you are than \overline{WHAT} you do

Your ability to forgive is based on relationship not resolve

"For He chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." - Ephesians 1:4 NIV

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." - 1 Peter 2:9 NIV

"But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language." - Colossians 3:8 NLT

"clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." - Colossians 3:12 NIV

Spiritual growth doesn't happen by accident

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you." - Colossians 3:13 NIV

"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." - Colossians 3:14 NIV

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice." - Ephesians 4:31 NIV

What we can't work with:

- Bitterness
- Rager
- Anger
- Brawling
- Slander
- Malice

What we can't work without

Compassion Kindness Humility Gentleness Patience

Talk It Over

- 1. Can you ever remember getting "To Do" lists from your parents as a kid? Though these kinds of lists are great for making sure we get things accomplished, stay on task, and remain focused on what we need to do, if we're not careful, we can treat our relationship with God in the same manner we do these "To Do" lists from our parents. As though a relationship with God simply consists of following a list of "Do's" and "Don't's." Have you ever found yourself treating your relationship with God that way? What were some of the ways that impacted your view of God, Jesus, the Bible, or the church? Did you grow spiritually through that time? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- 2. Has there ever been a time in your life you felt God was more concerned with your behavior than He was about you? How did that impact your view of God? How does it make you feel to know that he is far more concerned with who you are than what you do?
- 3. God knows that "being" leads to "doing" in our lives. In other words, if we will put our faith in Jesus, be in Christ, and be in relationship with Him, the proper beavers will follow. How have you seen this truth play out in your life? What are some things you do just to be with God?
- 4. Your capacity to forgive is based on relationship not resolve. It is based on your relationship with God, not the amount of effort you have to try and forgive someone. How have you

seen where your relationship with God has helped you forgive people who've wronged you?

5. What are some practical ways you can begin "clothing yourself" with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience?