

*Free to Live Again*  
First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida  
One Church - Two Locations Venice, Florida  
September 28, 2025

Joint Service - The Lakefront Campus - Sunday, November 2, 10:00 AM  
Grand Welcoming - The Lakefront Campus - Sunday, November 9, 9:30 AM  
First Baptist Downtown - Sunday, November 9  
Connection Classes at 9:30 AM and Worship at 11:00 AM

Genesis 2:16 (CSB) *And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden,<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."*

John 20:19-20 (CSB) *When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup> Having said this, He showed them His hands and His side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.*

- Jesus identified Himself by showing the disciples His wounds.

John 20:24-31 (CSB) *But Thomas (called "Twin"), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples were telling him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "If I don't see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."<sup>26</sup> A week later, his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don't be faithless, but believe."<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to him, "My Lord and my God!"<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- Wounds became proof of Jesus' existence.
- Jesus' wounds identified Him, but these same wounds did not define Him or control Him.

John 11:25 (CSB) *Jesus said to [Martha] her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live."*

Matthew 18:21-35 (CSB) *Then Peter approached Him and asked, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?"<sup>22</sup> "I tell you,*

*not as many as seven," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven. ...<sup>32</sup>...his master said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.*

*<sup>33</sup>Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'<sup>34</sup> And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless everyone of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart."*

**Hebrews 12:15 (CSB)** *Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many.*

**Ephesians 4:26b (CSB)** *Don't let the sun go down on your anger,<sup>27</sup> and don't give the devil an opportunity. ...<sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness, rage, and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup>And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.*

**Step 1: Identify the source of your wound.**

**Step 2: Acknowledge the hurt.**

**Step 3: Accept that you cannot change the past.**

**Step 4: Thank God for forgiving you.**

**Step 5: Ask God, through the Holy Spirit, to heal your wounds.**

**Step 6: Thank God that through the Holy Spirit, your wounds will neither define you, nor control you.**

**Step 7: Forgive your offender, whether they ask or not.**

**Forgiveness begins the repair of you!**

**Forgiveness does not exonerate the offender.**

**Step 8: Thank God for healing your wounds.**

**Thank God for delivering you from Anger, Resentment, and Bitterness.**

**1 Peter 2:21 (CSB)** *For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. <sup>22</sup>He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth; <sup>23</sup>when He was insulted, He did not insult in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten but entrusted Himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.*

**The wounds from yesterday may identify you, but they will not define you or control you.**

**Forgiveness frees you to live again!**