

Encounter Church  
Sunday January 28, 2024

Sit and Serve  
The Forgiven Forgive

Colossians 3:13 - "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

FORGIVENESS- A step you must take that many times makes no sense!

***Unforgiveness is a huge obstacle to loving and serving Jesus and others as Jesus would.***

Forgiveness! Something we deal with almost everyday! There are so many failed relationships out there.

**Every relational conflict creates 5 things that build off each other and become very unhealthy!**

1. **DISTANCE-** We begin to distance ourselves from one another. We distance ourselves from those who hurt us or we have conflict with.
2. **WALLS-** Walls are not a solution. You think it's for your good but it's not!
3. **ESCALATION-** You distance yourself and put up walls and then the conflict escalates in your heart. ***The offense continues to grow!***
4. **FALSE BELIEF-** A false belief rooted in lies. ***When you're hurting the last person you need to listen to is yourself because you're clouded.***

***YOU CAN'T TRUST YOU WHEN YOU'RE OFFENDED!***

5. **HOSTILITY-** A condition of your soul! Because of unforgiveness we become hostile in our soul towards someone.

***THIS LIST IS THE SAME CONDITION YOU WERE IN BEFORE YOU FOUND CHRIST!***

Ephesians 2:14 -"For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

***When there was a dividing wall of hostility between you and God, Jesus did what He did.***

***You and I were brought near to God before we were even willing to reconcile.***

***Jesus initiated a reconciliation process when He wasn't the offending party! He initiated a process of 'LET'S GET THIS RIGHT.'***

***When you and I grasp the reality of how we've been treated by God....PEACE!  
YOU AND I HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST!***

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT IN RETURN

Ephesians 4:31-32 -"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

You have to mix this with FAITH! The power in this verse is in the "JUST AS!"

REMEMBER how Jesus has forgiven you!

***In the forgiveness of you and your offenses is the power to do it for others!***

***The power of forgiveness is in the "JUST AS" Christ forgave you!***

(3) STEPS TO FORGIVENESS

Filter this through the authority of God's Word and Faith and not your own mind!

### **1. Receive God's Forgiveness**

Everything you have done or will do is covered by the Blood of Jesus. He has forgiven you completely. GRASP THE LOVE!

Colossians 1:13-14 - "For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins."

***You'll never have to forgive anybody more than God has already forgiven you!  
What you are facing is nothing compared to the amount of love and grace He has shown you and me!***

1 Timothy 1:13-15- "even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with

the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.”

Isaiah 1:18 - “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

***Receive God’s free gift of forgiveness!***

***If you live your life trying to earn God’s forgiveness you will make people try and earn forgiveness from you.***

THE SECOND STEP TO FORGIVENESS.

## **2. Feely Give What you have Received**

Matthew 10:8 - “.....Give as freely as you have received!”

This should be our motto: **THE FORGIVEN FORGIVE!**

Matthew 18:21-35 - “Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven! “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

***Jesus took your balance and made it a zero! He paid a debt you could not pay! He now says, “Treat every person the way I’ve treated you.”***

### 3. Go First

Jesus didn't wait for you and me HE WENT FIRST!

Romans 5:8 - "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners"

*The first to forgive is the happiest!*

Matthew 5:9 - "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God."

JESUS WENT FIRST! HE TORE DOWN THE WALL OF HOSTILITY AND GAVE US PEACE!

GO FIRST!

CONCLUSION: *The love of Christ leaves us no option! The enormity of what Jesus did for us leaves us not option!*

*I'm not asking you to feel it! I'm asking you to do it!*

**CHOICES LEAD, FEELINGS FOLLOW!** *You'll never fulfill your potential in Christ as long as you are ruled by your feelings.*

***We should be ruled by God's Holy Spirit and His Word!***

*"I am so free from this offense that I can't even tell you I wish it didn't happen."*  
(Joyce Meyer)

***If you can't forgive, there's a chance you've never been forgiven or you've forgotten what you've been forgiven of.***

**THE FORGIVEN FORGIVE!**

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?