

FORGIVENESS

∴ the key to relationship ∴

Part 1: The Key To Reconciliation

Part 2: The Key To Community

Part 3: The Key To Freedom

Part 4: The Key To Life

INTRODUCTION – Weeding The Garden

Acts 8:18-23; Hebrews 12:15

I Know I Should Forgive, But...

#1. I CAN'T FORGET!

Don't confuse forgiveness with the potential _____ of forgiveness.

Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 7:19;
Hebrews 8:12; 10:17

VS.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 15:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-16
Philippians 3:6, 12-14; Romans 12:1

TAKE OUT: Use memory as an aid for _____ and _____.

#2. JUSTICE MUST PREVAIL!

2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; **Romans 12:14-21**

#3. THEY NEED TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE!

TAKE OUT: Accountability should be an act of love offered by the church _____ . You should not be left alone in that process.

Matthew 18:15-20

#4. THEY WON'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE (OR DON'T UNDERSTAND) WHAT THEY DID!

Luke 23:34; Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 9:4-5; Hebrews 4:15;
Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26

#5. I CAN'T TRUST THEM AGAIN!

Forgiveness opens the door to _____, but it does not remove all _____. Lack of trust is a consequence of _____.

2 Samuel 12:13-14

#6. I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF!

Romans 8:31-39; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-16
Matthew 19:19; Ephesians 5:28-29; John 14:15

TAKE OUT: Stop trying to forgive yourself and accept God's _____

#7. I JUST CAN'T DO IT!

Romans 12:21; Philippians 4:13

TAKE OUT: There is _____ that God calls you to do that is impossible for you to accomplish.

CONCLUSION – Are You Ready For Freedom?

Galatians 4:19; John 8:31-32; 10:10

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Explore and discuss this quote from philosopher C.S. Lewis: *There is all the difference in the world between forgiving and excusing.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Compare Jesus' teaching on forgiveness in **Mark 11:25** vs. **Luke 17:3-4**. a) What two kinds (or aspects) of forgiveness are being described here? How are they different? How are they the same? b) Between the two examples, which kind (or aspect) of forgiveness do you find most challenging to practice? Why?
4. Read **Romans 12**. a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why? b) What is the specific relevance of **verse 2** to our discussion of forgiveness? c) What is the specific relevance of **verses 3-5** to our discussion of forgiveness? d) How does **verse 18** contribute to our understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation? e) How does **12:19** and **13:4** relate to one another? What are the implications?

SO WHAT?...

5. Read **Matthew 18:21-35**. Take time to re-read and meditate on this passage. Then share what God might be saying to you through it concerning your own situation. Pray for each other about this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 12 / 19, 2003