

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 – Go Ahead, Make God’s Day

Forgiveness feels like death because it kills our _____.

Luke 6:36; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

Our starting point for forgiving is our _____.

To withhold forgiveness from a fellow Christ-follower is to disrespect part of the _____ you belong to.

Forgiving Because We Are Forgiven

Matthew 18:21-35

Being unforgiving toward another person is a grotesque _____ to God’s grace to us.

TAKE OUT: View people who have wronged you as reminders of God’s _____. **Matthew 6:9-15**

Coming To Terms With “Forgiveness”

In Response To Repentance _____ When There Is No Repentance _____

WE OFFER...

Responsive Forgiveness

Conditional Forgiveness

Transactional Forgiveness

Luke 17:3-4

Unilateral Forgiveness

Unconditional Forgiveness

Cultivated Forgiveness / Grace / Love

Mark 11:25-26

How To Give & Receive Forgiveness

RECEIVING THE GIFT...

1. If an apology is appropriate, make it a _____. (**Matt. 5:23-24**)
2. Apologize in _____ if possible.
3. Apologize _____.
4. Apologize _____.
5. Accept what they can _____.

TAKE OUT: Remember, forgiveness is _____, but reconciliation is _____.

GIVING THE GIFT...

1. Make sure the issue is _____ and not _____.
[Sometimes we mistake being _____ for being _____.]
Ephesians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 10:12; 17:9; 1 Cor. 13:5-7
2. Cultivate forgiveness by remembering your _____. (**Matt. 7:3-5**)
3. Make sure your motive is other-centred _____.
4. Talk to them about your _____ and your _____.
5. Resolve not to treat them according to the _____ sin.

CONCLUSION – Nothing Is Wasted With God

Genesis 45:5; 50:19-21

TAKE OUT: View people who have wronged you as reminders of God’s _____.

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 Dr. Thomas Szasz: *The stupid neither forgive nor forget; The naive forgive and forget; The wise forgive but do not forget.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **Ephesians 4**. a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why? b) In your own words, summarize the goal Paul lays out for Christ-followers in **verse 1**. c) What role does anger play in the health (or lack of health) of our intimate relationships? How, according to Paul, should we govern our anger? d) According to **v. 28**, what is the main reason we go to work and make money? e) How is obedience to **v. 31** related to obedience to **v. 32**?

SO WHAT?...

4. Read **1 Peter 2:21-23** more than once (and from different translations if possible). Now take a few moments to meditate on these verses. What about the example of Christ as described here do you most need to develop in your life? Pray for each other about this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 5/12, 2003