



A Journey of Hope

Picking up the Broken Pieces with OTHERS

”Let it Go...The Power of Forgiveness”

Forgiveness does not mean...

Ephesians 4:25-32-Matthew 18:21-35

- Approving of what someone else did.
- Pretending that wrong never took place.
- Making excuses for other people’s bad behavior.
- Denying that others tried to hurt you repeatedly.
- Letting others walk all over you.
- Refusing to press charges when a crime has been committed.
- Pretending that you were never hurt.
- You must restore the relationship to what it was before.
- You must tell the person that you have forgiven them.
- All negative consequences of sin are cancelled (example: confession of a crime).

Forgiveness Defined:

The word forgive means: to give up or release resentment of an offense.

- The Hebrew word for "forgive" means to *pardon or spare*.

THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON

•The Greek word for "forgive" means to *send forth, lay aside, let go, omit, put (send) away*. In general we can say that to forgive is *to release the resentment caused by an offense*.

In our passage for tonight, Paul speaks about the dangers of unforgiveness. He tells us that unforgiveness . . .

A. Impacts our influence on others - v. 29

B. Impacts God's influence on us - v. 30

C. Involves Negative Qualities - v.31

Main Point:

Recognize no one is perfect.

"Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins" (Ecclesiastes 7:20 NLT, second edition).
We're all imperfect.

God never denied the fact of our sin:

In forgiving us, God did not turn a blind eye to our sin. He did not deny its existence. Rather, He dealt with our sin appropriately by forgiving us.

•When God saw the sinfulness of mankind in Noah's day, the Bible acknowledges His grief.
"The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain." - Genesis 6:6 (NIV)

•God was grieved by the sins of the people of Israel who rebelled in Moses' day.
"How often they rebelled against him in the desert and grieved him in the wasteland!"
- Psalm 78:40 (NIV)

•Jesus grieved over the rebelliousness of the people in His day.
"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." - Matthew 23:37 (NIV)

•Paul tells us that when we sin, it breaks the heart of God even today (v. 30).

Let the BIBLE speak:

THE MODEL OF FORGIVENESS - Vss. 21-22

THE MESSAGE ABOUT FORGIVENESS - Vss. 23-33

•There was a **Debt** that was owed - Vss. 23-25

- There was a **Suspension** that was made - Vss. 26-27
- There was an **Opportunity** given –Vss. 28-31
- Galatians 6:1-3; 1 Corinthians 13:5
- There was an **Order** Given - Vss. 32-33
- Matthew 7:1-5
- There is a **Consequence** to remember- Vs. 34-35

Unforgiveness reveals our place in God

- John 15:12; John 14:24

Unforgiveness prevents God from forgiving our sins

- Matthew 6:15

Unforgiveness can block God from answering our prayers

- Mark 11:24 – 25; Matthew 7:7, 12

Unforgiveness can defile a person

- Hebrews 12:15,

Unforgiveness can give Satan an advantage

- 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Tonight, if you are willing to forgive, but you are unsure how, consider the prayer below:

Father God, I need your help and your insights. Tonight I have gained a better understanding of forgiving others and with your help, I fully forgive from my heart. Just as you have freely forgiven me, I forgive them. Father, I ask you to forgive me for hurting others out of my own hurt and to heal my relationships with others. I pray all of this in Jesus' precious name and by whom all forgiveness and healing was made possible. Thank you for loving me in ways I'll never comprehend. In Jesus' name, Amen.