

PRACTICE OF FORGIVENESS

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Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13 NIV)

Five foundations of forgiveness...

I. Recognize the _____.

A. To _____ is human.

ROMANS 3:23 NIV "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

B. Sin causes _____.

ISAIAH 59:2 NIV But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

PROVERBS 15:17 NIV "Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred."

II. Acknowledge the _____.

A. Not: "What you did was _____" or "It didn't hurt."

LUKE 11:4 NIV "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us..."

B. Forgiveness is an act of your _____.

III. Confront the _____.

A. Who has hurt you in your life? How many people still '_____' you?

PROVERBS 19:3 NIV "A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD."

B. Bitterness _____ us!

HEBREWS 12:15 NIV "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

EPHESIANS 4:31 NIV Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

IV. Accept God's _____.

A. God _____ is Judge... and He has not granted us the power of attorney!

ROMANS 12:17, 19 NIV Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ..19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge: I will repay," says the Lord.

B. Vengeance is the Lords - not _____!

PSALM 98:7-9 NIV Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

C. Forgive & _____.

COLOSSIANS 3:13 NIV Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

D. Who do _____ need to forgive?

V. Receive God's _____.

A. Restoration comes through _____.

EPHESIANS 1:7 NIV In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

B. Have you _____ God's Payment?