



FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER - 4

"Called to One Another in Christ"

KEY PASSAGE:

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

GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of a time when someone was offended by you for something that wasn't your fault? Explain.
2. What are some of the excuses people give for not becoming Christians that indicate they may have been offended?
3. What are some of the possible consequences of offenses? (Proverbs 18:19, 2 Corinthians 6:3)
4. Read Matthew 16:21-23. What did Peter do that offended Jesus?
 - a. How might the same problem offend someone today?
5. What responsibility do you have when you've offended another? (Matthew 5:23-24)
 - a. What priority is indicated in this passage?
 - b. What steps do you think you should take to be reconciled to another?
6. What are some things you can do to avoid offending others?
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
 - b. 1 Corinthians 10:32-33
7. Describe a time when a friend talked you into doing something that got you in trouble? How was this an offense?
8. Read Matthew 18:15-17. What are the instructions you should follow if someone offends you?
 - a. What results are you hoping to gain by following these instructions?
 - b. Describe a time when you have used these instructions; share the results.
9. What should your attitude be when someone offends you and asks forgiveness? (Luke 17:1-4)
10. What actions can you take that can help keep you from being offended by others? (Psalm 119:165)

WORKING AS A TEAM:

God's Part – What part does God play in your life when it comes to forgiving others?

Your Part – What steps to forgiving others do you need to take right now?

Their Part – Forgiveness is not always a two-way street. Are you willing to forgive even if the other person refuses? Are you willing to pray that God moves their heart to forgive you?

THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS:

Spiritual Infant – The language/behaviors of a spiritual infant is characterized by lack of understanding.

Spiritual Child - The language/behaviors of a spiritual child is characterized by self-centeredness.

Spiritual Adolescent - The language/behaviors of a spiritual adolescent is characterized by God and other-centeredness and service.

Spiritual Parent - The language/behaviors of a spiritual parent is characterized by intentionality and strategy.

ADDITIONAL ADULT STUDY / HOMEWORK:

Each of the verses below illustrates what it looks like to offend others and in turn to be offended by others. As homework, look up each verse in your Bible, and then write each verse out, by hand. Next, answer the following questions:

- What steps do I need to take to avoid intentionally or maliciously offending others, including the Holy Spirit?
- What should my part be when I am offended?

Ephesians 4:30

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Acts 5: 3,4

Romans 14:21

1 Corinthians 8:13

Matthew 15:11

Romans 16:17

1 Kings 1:53

Acts 7:60

2 Timothy 4:16

ADDITIONAL FAMILY STUDIES / HOMEWORK:

This past weekend, your young person learned about the thief on the cross. Please take time during the week to have a discussion upon the principles of forgiveness utilizing the following questions.

1. Ask your young person to review the story of the thief on the cross
2. At the time of the crucifixion, there were two thieves who were also put to death. Explain the attitudes of each one.
3. Do you think the thief who begged for mercy deserved it? Why or why not?
4. What does this story tell you about forgiveness? Is there anyone that you need to forgive that you think doesn't deserve it?