

Sunday, February 2, 2014

**Do You Really Want to be Whole - Forgiveness**  
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A person who harbors unforgiveness has the potential to produce a root of bitterness and it is defiling to us as individuals. If and when that person gets into a close relationship with someone it will pollute the relationship. Sometimes we as Christian people don't know how to walk through forgiveness and work it out.

Forgiveness is a decision. From that decision there is a process of working it out in our lives where all the hurt and animosity is totally gone and you are a free person. Hallelujah !!

**Matthew 5:23-25 (AMP)**

<sup>23</sup> *So if when you are offering your gift at the altar you there remember that your brother has any [grievance] against you,*

<sup>24</sup> *Leave your gift at the altar and go. First make peace with your brother, and then come back and present your gift.*

<sup>25</sup> *Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way traveling with him, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.*

Jesus is teaching here when you come to the altar to pray, to worship God and seek his face, and then you remember that a relationship has gone awry. He is wanting us to do something about it to get the relationship restored.

The insanity of unforgiveness is that we have the attitude that we are going to make the other person pay and we are going to get even. From the scripture standpoint we put ourselves in a prison house emotionally and let it go on and on. If we do this it will turn to bitterness and then the relationship will become defiled and we grow lukewarm.

Sometimes we as Christians think that we can get by and God will make an exception for us and that we really don't have to be doers of the word of God in this area. Does God quit loving you? Absolutely not. God keeps loving you, but if you separate yourself from God's provision by not honoring Him and His instruction in the Word of God. It is so simple yet we stumble over it. And it is very simple as long as it doesn't apply to ourselves.

There is something about walking in forgiveness and the love of God that is liberating to us.

**Ephesians 4:31-32(KJV)**

<sup>31</sup> *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

<sup>32</sup> *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

God forgives you and I not based on our works. God forgives us based on what Jesus did for us, and that is why God forgives. If we are going to emulate our Father, we learn to forgive totally because God forgave based on what Jesus did for you and I. So we learn to forgive others simply based on what Jesus did for you and I

We can walk out forgiveness biblically and in a practical way.

The word forgive is a verb and is action. There isn't true forgiveness without action involved.

It is something we choose to do, and we do because we know we should, and the Lord has commanded us to. Mark 11:25-26 says if we don't forgive, he won't forgive us our trespasses.

### **Mark 11:25-26 (KJV)**

<sup>25</sup> *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

<sup>26</sup> *But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

We are to forgive everyone who has offended us or done us wrong. There are no loopholes.

### **Luke 11:4 (AMP)**

<sup>4</sup> *And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us [who has offended us or done us wrong]. And bring us not into temptation but rescue us from evil.*

### **Hebrews 12:15 (AMP)**

<sup>15</sup> *Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it—*

The root of bitterness is a troubling emotion on the inside. Emotions on the inside will become raw. Where there is unforgiveness there is hurt, disappointment, and resentment and then comes bitterness and someone can just say something and the word touch the hurt spot and we will react in an abnormal way that is destructive.

Where does unforgiveness turn into a root of bitterness? Where there is a root something is growing. It's alive and has fruit.

There can be unforgiveness that is growing and a friend can say something to that person and they snap and bite back for no reason. That is the fruit from that root. The other person did nothing wrong but with the root growing it shows in behavior toward people who haven't even hurt them. The person with the root will lash out, have a bad temper, be argumentative, have animosity, quarreling, and basically just ugly behavior.

There is a season when plain unforgiveness won't display the fruit, but over a period of time when it is not dealt with the root of bitterness will form and produce that fruit.

There is a process that can take place for forgiveness so that a root of bitterness won't form.

God accepts us and loves us just the way we are but He is also not going to leave us the way He found us. His plan is to change us into His likeness and character where we would become carriers of the goodness of God.

### **Romans 12:14-21 (AMP)**

<sup>14</sup> *Bless those who persecute you [who are cruel in their attitude toward you]; bless and do not curse them.*

<sup>15</sup> *Rejoice with those who rejoice [sharing others' joy], and weep with those who weep [sharing others' grief].*

<sup>16</sup> *Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits.*

<sup>17</sup> *Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is honest and proper and noble [aiming to be above reproach] in the sight of everyone.*

<sup>18</sup> *If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

<sup>19</sup> *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay (requite), says the Lord.*

<sup>20</sup> *But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.*

<sup>21</sup> *Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome (master) evil with good.*

Some people who are in the body of Christ when they came into the body of Christ they brought a spirit of offense with them and it has never been dealt with.

Have you ever steeped in your unforgiveness and bitterness and yet at the same time your outward works were exemplary and at the same time wondering why doesn't God do something about this other individual. They seem to be going their way enjoying life and getting off scot free, and I am here the one suffering. Why God aren't you doing something?

In this scripture the Spirit of God is saying, As long as you are trying to get even, As long as you are harboring unforgiveness and bitterness, you are keeping the door shut for letting God get involved, and do justice. He says vengeance is His not ours. As long as we return evil for evil, and a get even spirit, we keep the door shut for God to bring reconciliation or judgment in the situation.

Don't let evil conquer you...

### **Romans 12:20(NLT)**

<sup>20</sup> *Instead,*

*"If your enemies are hungry, feed them.*

*If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.*

*In doing this, you will heap*

*burning coals of shame on their heads."*<sup>l</sup>

You may be feeling the sting of a hurt, but the only way you will ever get over it and conqueror is to forgive. You have to will to forgive.

### **Romans 12:20 (CEV)**

<sup>20</sup> *The Scriptures also say,*

*"If your enemies are hungry,*

*give them something to eat.*

*And if they are thirsty,*

*give them something*

*to drink.*

*This will be the same*

*as piling burning coals*

*on their heads."*

### **Romans 12:20 (AMP)**

<sup>20</sup> *But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.*

How do we overcome? Forgive.

Lev 16:

Instructions are being given to enter the holy of holies. There was a veil there you couldn't see behind. This is where the Ark of the Covenant was. This is where the priest went in and atoned for sins and the presence of God was there. The laws were strict. The priests had ropes with bells on them and if the bells quit ringing it was known that something had happened and the priest was dead. No one could go in so the priest would be pulled out. This shows the reverential fear of the presence of God was under the old covenant. Now we come boldly into the holy of holies because of the precious blood of Jesus. We are to come without fear and trembling.

### **Leviticus 16:12-13 (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> *And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil:*

<sup>13</sup> *And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:*

The fire referred to was to burn continuously never to go out. Today when we offer forgiveness we are heaping right action, we are heaping hot coals on whatever incident caused the offense and it is a sweet offering in the sight of God. Then God will get involved and life will be ministered. Without corresponding action in forgiveness it will minister death to the situation. The life of God will not be present. So when we do well to our enemies it is an offering to God, it is not just to the person, and it is a sweet sacrifice in his sight. Then a covering of protection comes to you.

### **1 Peter 3:9 (AMP)**

<sup>9</sup> *Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For know that to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection].*

We conquer evil with good. When we render good we are sowing seed for the blessings of God to come to us. We are called to inherit a blessing.

Let it drop, Leave it and let it go. Can we do that? That is what the word instructs. And we are doers of The Word.