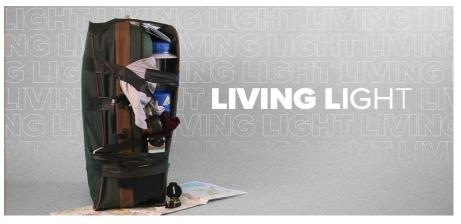
March 28 & 31, 2019



Forgiveness over Resentment

Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

I. The heaviness of resentment.

• Resentment/unforgiveness takes a heavy toll on us physically!

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NIV)

Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, " in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

- Resentment/unforgiveness takes the greatest toll on us spiritually.
- You cannot have closeness with God and distance with others.

II. Unlocking the ability to forgive.

Forgiveness: Extending the grace to others that Christ has extended to you.

Ephesians 4:24-27 (NIV)

and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- I. The first step of forgiveness is remembering that we are $\underline{\text{first}}$ sinners and $\underline{\text{secondly}}$ sinned against.
- My forgiveness was undeserved, extravagant and costly!
- 2. The second step of forgiveness is resigning my role as judge! (Romans 12:17-20)
 - Forgiveness wakes the sinner up to their sin.
 - Forgiveness increases God's judgement on the sinner.
- III. More difficult to receive than to give. (Romans 8:1)
 - Receiving forgiveness starts when we own it. (Psalm 32:3-5)
- Receiving forgiveness occurs when we realize punishment is necessary and punishment has occurred.

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

 Receiving forgiveness is much easier as a part of a <u>body</u>. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

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