



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, ¹¹ 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 first sinners and 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 body.
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)