

Guarding the Doors of Our Relationships

Message #5 "Forgiveness- Discovering Relational Grace"

1 Cor. 13:4-7, Hebrews 10:17-22

June 6 & 7, 2009

If **Commitment** is the foundational door and **Words** are the practical door, **Forgiveness** would be the _____.

Big Idea: Relational health simply cannot exist outside of a _____.

GOD'S MODEL OF RELATIONAL GRACE

"Then He adds: 'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.' ¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." Heb. 10:17-22

1. Grace chooses _____ Vs. 17

"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. **It keeps no record of wrongs.** ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Cor. 13:4-7

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

2. Grace chooses _____ Vs. 18

"And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin."

Forgiveness means:

A. I will not anticipate their _____.

B. I will not _____ (and myself) of their failure.

C. I will _____ over and over again.

D. I will not require them _____ I give them grace.

3. Grace chooses _____ Vs. 19-22

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

Big Truth: God wants the offended one to _____ in inviting repair, renewal and reconciliation. Rather than withholding love, you extend it.

So how do I forgive?

1. Do I have the right to be angry? 1 Cor. 13:4-8
2. Acknowledge they are not the only offender. Eph. 4:32
3. Make a decision that freedom is worth more than your right to resent.
4. Ask God and give permission for Him to soften your heart.
5. Let go. Gen. 50:19-21
6. Choose to focus on the present. Phil. 3:13-14
7. Pray for them...often. Matt. 5:44

For those who have wronged another:

1. Come with a humble heart. Luke 18:13
2. Come with a repentant heart.
3. Come with a committed heart.
4. Come with a loving heart.

*Remember- Forgiveness chooses to set the captive free...only to discover...
I was the prisoner.*

A daily devotional guide is available at the Welcome Center and the Venue resource table.