

## **Evangelizing Those Who Wrong You,**

### **Session #4**

**Step #1: Go to the Cross and do some gospel thinking.**

**Step #2: Choose to forgive.**

- A. We should choose to forgive in the context of prayer.**
- B. We should choose to forgive others in a way that is shaped by God’s forgiveness of us.**
- C. We should choose to forgive others as a means of shaping our own experience of God’s forgiveness of us.**
- D. We should choose to forgive with persistency.**
- E. We should choose to forgive others as a sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves to God.**

- Ephesians. “(4:32) Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you. (5:1) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, (2) and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

**F. We should choose to forgive \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. Ephesians 4:32. “be continuously forgiving each other.”
2. Matthew 18. “(21) Then Peter came and said to Him, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ (22) Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”
  - A) “How often shall my brother sin against me?”
  - B) “How often shall I forgive him?”
3. When we forgive someone, we should not say in our hearts, “I forgive them for this now, but this is the last time.” Instead, true forgiveness says, “I forgive you for this now – and if you were to do this 489 more times, I would forgive you that many times if needed.”

4. Impossible? Crazy?
5. A common question: “I forgave a person of their sin against me, and then five minutes later I found myself angry again, so I guess this forgiveness thing isn’t working. What do I do now?”
6. Another question: “I forgave someone of a sin against me, but now I find myself angry again. Does that mean that I never really truly forgave in the first place? Was my previous forgiveness just a sham?”
  - A) It might mean your forgiveness was not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B) It doesn’t necessarily mean that your forgiveness was insincere. It may simply mean that you \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C) Consider that some sins committed against you are multi-faceted in their \_\_\_\_\_ (the way they were carried out) and in their \_\_\_\_\_, thus requiring multiple moments of forgiveness.
    - 1) When Jesus tells us to forgive 490 times, He is not simply telling us that we need to forgive 490 separate individual sins one time each. *He is also saying that sometimes we will find ourselves needing to forgive one sin 490 times.* A sin with 490 facets will eventually require 490 moments of forgiveness.
    - 2) \_\_\_\_\_, the ultimate multi-faceted sin.

**Step #3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **for the person who has wronged you.**

- A. Matthew 5. “(43) You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ (44) But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (45) so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to shine on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”
- B. 1 John 2:1. “My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;”

- C. Luke 23:34. But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

**Step #4: Make \_\_\_\_\_ an agent of blessing in that person's life.**

- A. Romans 12. "(17) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. (19) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. '(20) But if your enemy is hungry, you be feeding him, and if he is thirsty, you be giving him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (see also Romans 2:4)
- B. 1 Peter 3. "(8) To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; (9) not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing."
- C. Be willing to render kindness \_\_\_\_\_.

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**A Practical Question:**

**The Relationship Between Forgiveness & Trust**

*"What is the relationship between forgiveness and trust.*

*Does forgiveness equal trust?"*

1. \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, trust prematurely granted is \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Timothy 3:6. “And not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation and snare of the devil.”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ . Forgiveness means that you give the offender the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ your trust (which requires making yourself \_\_\_\_\_).

“Kindness says to our spouse, ‘I know you are a sinner like me and you will sin against me, just like I sin against you. But I refuse to live defensively with you. I’m going to live *leaning in your direction* with a merciful posture that your sin and weakness cannot erase.’” (from *When Sinners Say ‘I Do’* by Dave Harvey)

3. But doesn’t the Bible say that “Love believes all things”?

2 Timothy 2:2. “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Acts 6:3. “Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.”

1 Timothy 3:6. “And not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation and snare of the devil.”

1 Corinthians 13. “(7) [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (8) Love never fails . . . .”

4. This is way \_\_\_\_\_ treats you in \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Ephesians 1:1 & Colossians 1:2 refer to believers as “faithful ones.”

B. Ephesians 4:30. “Grieve not the Holy Spirit...”

5. The alternative is an unbreakable and unredeemable \_\_\_\_\_.

"Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable. . . . the only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell."<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves, 169.