

Series: Pitfall

Message: False Forgiveness

May 20, 2012

The deceit of false forgiveness:

I can forgive and demand retribution (revenge).

2 Corinthians 2:5-11; Luke 17:3-4; Luke 23:34; Luke 6:27-36

Forgiveness without Restoration (two parts).

Galatians 5:1; 1 John 3:19-20; Luke 15:10-32; Col 3:13; Rom 8:15-17

Forgiving others:

- Healthy- direction for progress
- Unhealthy- boundaries that protect but don't control

Forgiving self:

- Full restoration to son-ship/daughter-ship
- Freedom to follow Christ fully

The ultimate pit of un-forgiveness leads to eternal death.

Matthew 6:9-15; Matthew 11:22-25; Matthew 18:32-33; Roman 6:23

Steps to foster a genuine forgiving spirit:

1. Accept God's forgiveness and mercy and grace.
2. Choose to forgive others.
3. Rejoice when God forgives.

My intentional momentum:

Father forgive me. I am sorry for the things I have done. I know I am your child. Help me extend Forgiveness to others just like you have done for me. Create a forgiving spirit in me. I trust you to grow me in every area of my life as you see fit. I know you have the best plan for me. Amen.

NEXT STEPS

To prepare for this week's life group, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group.

My Story

How has your past perceptions of God influenced your view of His forgiveness, forgiving others and forgiving yourself?

As we conclude this series on pitfalls (offense, isolation, self-condemnation, criticism, false forgiveness) what insights have helped you the most?

Digging deeper

When we remember God's incredible provision of forgiveness and our need for it can help us become more generous in the forgiveness of others. The following verses take us back to the basics. How can each one help us grow in our ability and/or motivation to forgive?

Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:1-3; Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 33:6-9; Colossians 3:12-15

False forgiveness says; "I forgive you but I still want the right to my pound of flesh". It is hard to give up our own revenge because it can leave us feeling like the other person "got away with it." What can we learn from David's actions in 1 Samuel 24:1-13?

What is the most challenging aspect for you when it comes to not seeking your own justice or revenge?

Forgiving others frees us from the baggage that we pick up when we are unforgiving. Read Ephesians 4:30-31. Do you see any evidence or symptoms of a lack of forgiveness in your own life toward others or yourself?

How might the following verses help you forgive others or yourself?
Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 7:1-25 & 8:1-39; Philippians 2:3-4

What are some signs that a person may not have forgiven someone?
What are signs they have forgiven someone?

Looking at this passage and your sermon notes, write down what you think it means to “forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.” (Colossians 3:13)

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God’s Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here’s how it will happen.

SHARE

Each week we’ll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned “sharing questions.” But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal, as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we’ll study a section from God’s Word that relates to the previous weekend’s message or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Faith in Christ in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we’ll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God’s Kingdom.