

Born with Identity
Part 6: Forgivers of People, Part 2
Slide Notations

So far... Word and Spirit people! Servant and Slave people! “We stand on His word, empowered by His Spirit to serve men as Slaves to God!” *Last week began searching out our identity as Forgivers! Can’t be very Christ-like if can’t forgive...* He forgave the whole world their sins against God... we are asked to forgive men their trespasses against us! *Pocket change!*

We live in an incredibly busted world (R8), where offenses will happen, but if it’s coming from a broken-fellow-servant, we are called to forgive (Mt18) as we have been forgiven our offenses (Mt6)! If we do not forgive, we anger our Father, bring ourselves under the power of a tormenting system (Mt18), and cut off the flow of God’s blessings (Is59.2, Jer 5.25)!

Ended asking: What do you have? Incestuous molestation/(date) rape? Adultery/divorce/same sex partner? Verbal/phys/mental abuse – *loved one*? Cheated out of \$\$/partner? Bankruptcy? Heartbreaking life disappointments? Abandonment issues?

You are still here, still alive, to get a hold on the power of God and use what’s happened to you as a tool of salvation! All things, “common to man!”

“The more you preoccupy yourself with what happened to you the less you’ll know about the life God has provided for you!” “The more you preoccupy yourself with what happened the longer you keep the event alive and the more you strengthen the bondage!”

You don’t know... What you are asking me to do! Horrendous treatment at the hands of someone... You’re right, I don’t know... But I know someone who does know! The same One *requiring forgiveness!* I do know when God forgave us, He acquired the right to ask anything of us! **Do know we have no right to deny Him!**

We Forgive... People who sin *against us* because:

1. *He gave us an example to follow!* While we were still sinning! **R5.8** Endured the contradiction of sinners! **H12** Forgive @ other as Christ forgave you! **E4.32** Because we don’t want to bind ourselves to people who offend us! **Cut loose of that death-dealing carcass and get on with life!**

“The people who have messed with you have not done one thing to take away the life God planned for you... the way you handle what they did – does!”

2. Repeatedly, as many times/necessary! 70x7, “as often as...” “offenses come!” 3. Intentionally, because time does not heal all wounds! Many bitter/broken for a lifetime! Time only aids the healing process if we have made the right decisions! 4. Completely/ *so time serves memory!* You can tell how much you’ve forgiven by how big a space/place you give them! 5. And let trust be rebuilt! We give forgiveness/let others earn trust! Forgiveness/trust are two different issues! 6. Because unforgiveness is unproductive! Takes up time/makes us sick/tired/binds! What we are not-forgiving, is forgiven already, and we are trying to un-forgive it, which is almost unforgivable!

3 of the most famous Christian quotes: “where 2 or 3 are gathered...” “if any 2 agree as touching...” “whatsoever you bind on earth...” are found in the forgiveness passage...

Do you really want to bind the people who have offended you to their sin?

Do you really want to face them in eternity as the one who barred the way? Or would you like them to see your largess in that day?

But can we bring forgiveness home? When those who do the sinning – *US!* Some have no problem forgiving others but fail miserably – forgiving themselves! How do you live w/what you’ve done? Especially when you

know the people you hurt have not forgiven you... Or you can't know if they have/gone! How do you forgive yourself for being an offender?

Forgiving Ourselves...

1. Knowing that we did those things in the days of our ignorance! We were living in darkness/could do no different... "instruments of cruelty" **G49.5** Living the model we had seen/experienced. I did what I knew to do! Captives: driven and could not detour... Unable to turn, blinded, paralyzed! But then light and power came... we saw! *Now can turn around – do good!*

2. We get off the performance treadmill! From childhood taught do well/get praise/love and acceptance! Transfer that feeling/belief to God! God does not accept or reject us based on good/bad things we have done! We are pleasing in His sight because we have received Jesus as His sacrifice! Nothing from our past is in His way! Way is open to God!

3. We employ faith, not feelings! "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you!" **Mt9.2** "Your sins, that are many, are forgiven... your faith has saved you!" **Lk7.47** "Wretched man that I am..." **R7.24** "There is no longer any condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus!" **R8.1** Our *feelings* toward ourselves can bind our *faith and dilute His truth!*

And you, dead in your sins has he quickened, having forgiven you *all trespasses*; blotting out the record against us, nailing it to His cross! **Col 2.13,14**

I am He that blots out your transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember your sins! **Is43.25**

They will all know me, from the least to the greatest, says the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. **Jer 31.34**

Can I Forgive and Forget? How do we mimic God w/o lying? "As far as the east is from the west, He removed our transgressions from us. **P103** "forgive them because they don't know what they're doing!" **Lk 23.34** How do you do that w/o being dumb? "I forget why I walk with a limp!" *God is not lying, nor is He feeble of mind... So what's a kid to do?*

Forgive and Forget... others and ourselves!

1. We replace bad memories w/good! Remember this day, in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out... **X13.3** Remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and seek not after your own heart and your own eyes. **N15.39** ***You can remember what they did to you... or what God did for you!***

Remember you were a slave in the land and *that* the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand and outstretched arm. **D5.15** Remember what the Lord does to His enemies! **D7.18** Remember and don't forget how you provoked the Lord by disobedience! **D9.7** Remember the name of the Lord! **Ps20.7** ***You can remember what God does for you and forget what men can do to you!***

Remember that God is still God, you are still alive, He wants to fulfill His plans... and we're the only ones who can stop Him!

2. Forgive completely because the work is done, the price has been paid! You will struggle less with "feeling like forgiving" if you acknowledge you don't have any choice! That's not bad... that's safety! The Cross forgave *all* your sins! The forgiveness of *all* your sins should give you the compassion to forgive *individual* sins of others! **Mt18**

3. Stop trying to forget and start living! *Forgetting comes naturally w/real life!* If you are very busy... "I'm so busy, I just completely forgot!" *If you replace past w/new experience... "so much happened since then!" Things*

no longer important/fade... "Sorry, just can't remember/details!" **Trying to "forget" just makes you remember so you don't want to forgive!**

In Christ we wear our past as robes of glory, clad with medals of His honor, on a body made strong thru trials, proclaiming "the Lord delivers us out of them all!"