

Born with Identity
Part 7: Playing Keep-away from Offenses
Slide Notations

So far... Word and Spirit people! Servant and Slave people! Forgivers of people; others and self!

We can't be very Christ-like if we can't forgive people their sins against us... We forgive because Christ modeled it! Because it's not optional! Because it's unhealthy not to! Not only bitterness/anger/self-pity. What about unforgiveness as a crutch!

"I've been done wrong... that's why I can't make any headway in this life!"

(STOP!) Bitterness pills! "Put away poison, fierce indignation, violent anger, broadcasting, blasphemy, and wickedness!" **E4.31 Self-pity!** "No one has ever gotten beyond this!" "All things work together for good... **R8.28** not for some, or, some things for all!" **Insecurity in Jesus!** You are made of clay, not glass! "Never more than you can bear!" **1C10.13**

"No one is a professional forgiver... forgiving is love's toughest work and life's biggest challenge... but we can do it, just as He said!"

We can't become very Christ-like if we are bound up in self-condemnation for past! Some of us are harder than God on sin and have a longer memory than Him! Let's dismember instead of remember our failures/sins! We can know we have sinned & forget!

"Peter denied Jesus within His sight and hearing and Paul killed His followers in complete deception... and they both 'forgot' their past and finished well!"

(STOP!) Being disappointed in ourselves! Know yourself and be free! "And if any man sins we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus the righteous! **1J2.1 Insecurity in Jesus!** You are made of clay, not glass! "Never more than you can bear!" **1C10.13 Self-inflicted pain!** "God remembers what man forgets: that we are human; He forgets what we remember: our failures." **Ps103.10-14**

Johnny and Sally... Johnny killed Grandmother's pet duck and hid it! Sally was watching in silence! Blackmailed Johnny; "remember the duck!" Tormented, after several days, confession! Grandmother: I know, I saw the whole thing, and I forgave you at that moment... but... I was wondering how long you were going to let Sally make you her slave!

DON'T BE ENSLAVED BY THE DUCK!

We Forgive Ourselves... Knowing that we did those things in the days of our ignorance... "In the past you walked according to the world order and the corrupt leading of the prince of the power of the air!" **E2.2 And get off the performance treadmill!** Completely accepted in the Beloved! **E1.6 By faith and not by feelings!** "be of good cheer **Mt9.2**, sins, that are many, are forgiven **Lk7.47**, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus! **R8.1**

So followers of Christ are forgivers of others, and, believers in Christ receive their own forgiveness regardless of feelings – which is faith!

Now... we have talked about what to do when offenses come... and what we do when we are the offenders...

But... what do we do with "offenders" when the offense comes to someone we care about?

Highlights Genesis 34: Dinah, the Explorer... v1 In the wrong place/wrong reasons! Objectionable curiosity! "Let me see these wicked people!" Evil appetite! "Maybe I can sample their delights!" Exhibition of vanity! "Let them see how holy people look!" In the wrong place/right time!

Shechem, a young Prince, captivated, impatient, took her in the field! **v2** Within the law for him to take a wife wherever he wanted... Her choice put her within his power... But about to go to new law school... **In God's kingdom men of eminence should make themselves of eminent virtue; greatness and goodness go together!**

Crime committed against holy family!

Jacob heard and was angered! **v5** Sons heard and were very angered! **v7** Recognized guardians of “sister!” Prevention would have been far better! *Hamor* heard/trouble coming! **v4,6** “My son really loves your daughter. Please let him marry her.” **v8-10** *Shechem*: “I love her. Let me find grace in your eyes to marry her. I will pay any dowry you demand for her!” **v11-12**

LOW-lights Genesis 34 But the sons of Jacob answered deceitfully, ‘we cannot give her to someone who is uncircumcised. If all of you are circumcised then we will be as one people!’ **v13-18** And condition accepted/rep of God’s peo! On the 3rd day, when the men were sore, Simeon and Levi led the slaughter of all the men, stripped the dead, took the wives and children as slaves and ransacked the houses... **v25-29**

The Story... Opens w/a terrible sexual sin against a young girl and a good name! The perp, realizing sin, runs to dad for help, seek restoration! Sons use their repentance in a plot for revenge! (*inhuman, much less, God-ly*). Jacob: “You have troubled me and made me stink among the people...” **v30** “Should we have let them get away with this?” **v31** (*always the 3rd option!*)

Simeon and Levi are deceptive, angry and self willed, fierce of anger and cruel in wrath, don’t unite with them – I will dilute and scatter them! Gen 49.5-7

The young men had picked up their sisters offense and with religious cover and demonic craft had become treacherous beyond any rationale!

This is a story of the collateral damage that comes from picking up someone’s offense rather than just standing up for righteous defense!

Picking up another’s offense! Father, mother, sister, brother, wife, husband, child, relative, friend, co-worker, acquaintance, stranger, enemy... Is “assaulted-insulted-afflicted-conflicted” by someone... Ready to throw all in! Not a believers position! The only right answer to “who’s side are you on” is... God’s side! **Josh 5.13,14**

Before we react with our own action, beginning a chain reaction, check in w/Word and Spirit! “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay!” **H10.30** “the Lord defends His people!” **Ps5.11** Pharaoh principle (**X3**), Miriam principle (**N12**), Shimei principle (**2S16**), wilderness principle (**Num14**), unforgiveness at work (**Mt18**), chastening of the Lord (**Heb12**), broken world syndrome (**R8**)...

Don’t let your *compassion* for your loved ones overrun God’s *completion* of His beloved!

Like not every ‘good’ thing is from God not every ‘bad’ thing is evil... it depends on who is doing the defining and what the end game is!

Stop picking up another person’s offence... when you are there to take up their defense!

When we pick up offense... Confirm to “our side” fight is worthy! Shuts our loved one down from listening! “I must be right/accurate...” We create a victim... We create a new idol... We involve an army... We miss the reconciliation!

When we pick up defense... Confirm our commitment to truth, justice and the Godly way! We commend loved ones to God’s way! We point them to the Lord for outcome! We energize the body of Christ! We become ambassadors for reconciliation and health!

Response to offense... Stop... Unless you are *extremely* skilled first move will be wrong move! Spirit will tell you when/what to move on! **Wait...** Four sides to every story: his, hers, what actually happened, God’s view! Take time/heaven – truth will emerge! **Listen!** Pathway clearly marked by the Word!