

Outline

Why should we forgive others? – Ephesians 4:31-32

- So we're not filled with bitterness – v.31
- We've been forgiven – v.32; Luke 23:34; Colossians 3:13; Matthew 18:23-34
- Because we will need to receive forgiveness in the future – Matthew 6:12,14-15; James 2:13

How can we forgive others?

- Freely and completely
- Immediately – Matthew 5:23-24
- Continually – Matthew 18:21-22

Ask forgiveness of others

- Humbly
- Sincerely
- Without being defensive
- Without expectations



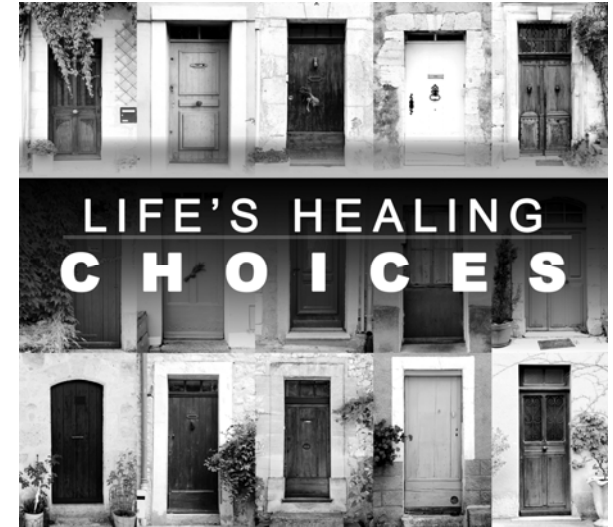
NICEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Come, Meet, Grow, Serve

CONNECT



Forgive Others

Rev. Jeremy Smith- 8:00, 9:30 & 11:02

CONNECT

...in Community

“Forgiving Others” is another outward choice to show God’s work in our lives. When we are merciful to others, we are willing to forgive them, whether they deserve it or not. That is the mercy that God had for us in sending Jesus to die for our sins when we did not deserve it. This will give a peace that only God can give. So the question remains: “Are you willing to forgive those who have hurt you?”

meet

Think of something you regret not doing in your life that you had the opportunity to do. Share this with your group. After group members have shared, ask the question, “Why might we regret not forgiving others?”

grow

- Why should you forgive others?
 - * Because God has forgiven you—Read Colossians 3:13—If God has forgiven you, shouldn’t you forgive others if you are trying to be like Christ?
 - * Because resentment doesn’t work—Read Job 5:2—Why is holding on to resentments foolish and senseless?
 - * Because you’ll need forgiveness in the future—Read Matthew 6:12—How does this verse help encourage you in giving your forgiveness to others?
- Forgiving Others
 - * How can revealing your hurt help you to forgive?
 - * How can releasing your offender help you to forgive others?
 - * How can you replace your hurt with God’s peace to help you forgive others?
- Making Amends?
 - * Repairing a relationship is a two-part process: 1) Forgive 2) Make Amends. (remember not only have people hurt you, but you have hurt others)
 - * Read Matthew 5:23-24. How does this verse help you see the importance of make amends to those you have hurt?

serve

- List 2 people you need to ask for their forgiveness:

- List 2 people you need to forgive:

CONNECT

...in Word

Notice the text | read the passage slowly and thoughtfully

Engage the truth | what do I see about God, His promise or command, life, sin, me

apply to life | how does this passage apply to my life now

respond to God | write a reflection, prayer, action, decision

Day 1 Matthew 18:21-22. Are you holding a grudge against someone? Pray and ask God to help you release it and to forgive whatever it is that you are holding on to.

Day 2 1 John 1:9. Stop and remember the time when you prayed to receive Christ into your life. Remember what you confessed to Him, and even though you were not worthy, you were forgiven. Pray that God would give you His Spirit towards others.

Day 3 Numbers 14:19-20. Do you have a heart to forgive others? Do you feel mercy and compassion towards others, even when they wrong you? Who do you need to forgive? Who is it that needs to forgive you?

Day 4 Acts 7:59-60. As he was being killed, Stephen prayed to God to forgive those that were killing him. What characteristics does Stephen have that allowed him to pray this prayer? Pray that you could have them too.

Day 5 Romans 12:20. Imagine if this was our focus - would forgiveness be easier? Would it even be an issue? How can you work towards living this verse out?