

Fireproof Your Relationships

Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Today we want to conclude our series on *Fireproofing Your Relationships* by talking about the second most important skill and action involved in successful relationships and marriages; the skill of forgiveness. Incidentally, the first most important skill is LOVE, but if you cannot forgive you will never be able to love.

The truth about forgiveness is . . . it is never easy. You never have to forgive someone for something that does not matter. You never have to forgive someone for helping you, making you smile, or making you feel good. The only time you have to forgive is when you've been hurt.

Have you ever known anyone who has been so consumed by anger or hate that they could not think rationally? It happens all the time. When we are consumed by hatred or consumed by hurt, Satan can out wit us. So I want to talk to you today about forgiveness.

How do I Forgive?

I. Make a _____ to forgive.

A. If you wait until you feel like it, you will _____ get there.

1. You don't need to _____ to forgive.
2. You don't need to _____ to forgive.
3. We don't need to be _____ to forgive.

II. _____ the words – at least to yourself.

A. Verbal communication does something wonderful to your _____.

1. The best kind of forgiveness forgives and then let's the

_____ stay in the past.

2. Discussing the issues is not the issue, forgiveness _____.

3. Don't make forgiveness _____.

III. When you forgive, _____.

A. Put your anger, your _____, your resentment, and your right to revenge all aside.

1. Don't open _____ that were not visible.
2. When there is a need to confront, then confront. If the purpose is to forgive, then _____.
3. The bigger person _____ first.

IV. Forgive _____.

A. Forgive _____ the Lord forgives you.

1. He forgives us _____, _____, and _____, before we are even born.

V. Forgive _____.

A. Forgiveness is like _____ an onion.

1. Over and over again.

VI. Forgiving does not mean _____.

A. You just _____ it aside.

VII. Forgiving does not mean _____.

A. How? You just do it and live life free and _____.

Conclusion

1. Forgiveness must be _____, it can't be earned.
Trust can't be
granted, it must be learned.

2. Challenge yourself to be _____ to live in abundance,
blessing and favor.
This can only be had through forgiveness.

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer again . . .

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

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*Audio CD's and DVD's are also available after each service for purchase at the roll up
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