



- The church should be a place that seeks the **truth**.

Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. John 14:5-6

...love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'... Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

- How we **love** is key to how we live.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

Love...keeps no record of wrongs... 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

- Being hurt is an **event**, but how we respond to the hurt is a **choice**.

Learning to forgive is a spiritual **discipline**.

... when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. Mark 11:25 (NLT)

When it comes to being hurt:

We have to take our **emotions** out of it, if we're going to get through it.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NET)

Forgiveness is not:

- Forgiveness is not **forgetting** what's been done.

- Forgiveness is not **fair**. (Not natural)

He [God] does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:10-12

Forgiving simply means:

- Refusing to seek **revenge**.
- Refusing to be consumed by the **hurt**.
- Giving others what **God has given me**.

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

- **Healing** is available for the **hurting**.

He (God) heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. Psalms 147:3

"Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come... ³ So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. ⁴ Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Luke 17:1, 3-5 (NIV)

As Christians:

- We are to forgive as we have been **forgiven**.

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

- We can't live **in** God's forgiveness if we don't live with **extended** forgiveness.

...and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.... 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:12,14-15 (NIV)

- The heart of the Gospel, and the lives it touches, is **forgiveness**.

Faith to forgive means:

- Faith enables me to choose **healing** when my flesh wants to choose to be offended!

How to Forgive:

- Receive God's **forgiveness**.

I said to myself, "I will confess my sins to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Psalm 32:5

- Recognize that everyone's **imperfect**.

"There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins." Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT)

- Relinquish your right to **revenge**.

...never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it." Romans 12:19 (TLB)

- Respond to hurt with **Love** and **prayer**.

...Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

When the **worst** is done to you, allow it to bring out **God** in you.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Is forgiving difficult people a challenge for you? Explain.
- Why is forgiveness a spiritual discipline?
- Have you been forgiven by someone? How did they do it?
- Talk about the points under the sub-heading - "Forgiving simply means".
- How important is it that we receive healing for our hurts?
- What does it mean to you that we are to forgive as we have been forgiven?
- What does the point mean to you: We can't live in God's forgiveness if we don't live with extended forgiveness?
- Why is receiving God's forgiveness essential to giving forgiveness?
- How do we relinquish our rights to revenge?
- How does prayer for difficult people enable us to forgive them?

For more Talks, visit us at:
fresnoquest.com

Opportunities to experience community:



Today's Talk..



How do I forgive difficult people?

Sunday, April 30th, 2023

fresnoquest.com



Scan this QR code to connect with us, discover your "Next Steps," give online and much more.