

Men are From Dirt & Women are From Men

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Forgiveness

Colossians 3:13ff Not Wrong, Just Different

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, *which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

Bear with each other > The differences as you walk through the disagreement and forgiveness differently.

Men: In the area of forgiveness men tend to forgive "Present > Future"
Men want to run to the future and forget or leave behind the past.
BUT they will remind you if it gets in the way of reaching THEIR goals in the future
"Since you can not do anything about the past except saying your sorry, what else can a man do?" *He appears to move on....but does he?*

Women: In the area of forgiveness women tend to forgive "Present > Past"
Women want to run into the past and forget or delay a future vision.
They need to "play it again" to be sure that history does not repeat itself.
Future thinking is held back by her desire to not be hurt again.
Since the impact of the past is so real, how can we leave it with an, "I'm sorry".

Men + Women = Present Forgiveness is directed by the King of King and the Lord of Lords.

The result is dealing with forgiveness in the present. Forgiveness now becomes part of God's dynamic plan of breathing life into a relationship. It is fresh air and relief when done right. You can't "Just forgive" and you can't "not forgive".

Film Clip Am I Forgiving?

1. Why do both men and women hold on to the "unforgiveness stuff?"
2. Are there times when you need to "remember" the offense?
3. Is Mr. BBQ really as free as he thinks? WHY?



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Choosing forgiveness filters two key impurities out, anger and bitterness.

Ephesians 4:29 The Cost of Unforgiveness

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

How?

By getting rid of all bitterness, rage, anger etc
And by being kind....forgiving with an Empowered Forgiveness!

Why?

Because living in bitterness, unforgiveness, rage and anger shows that your spiritual life and your salvation do not line up! NO FRUIT!!!!



Key: Living in unforgiveness smothers your walk with the Lord. You are unable to worship, fellowship, or be “fed” by the Word. Unforgiveness is like turning off the input of the Holy Spirit into every area of your life.

What does the forgiveness do?

Keeps out bitterness

Bitterness actually is “stale” unforgiveness. It blocks the fresh “air” of God’s grace in a relationship.

Keeps out anger

Anger connected with unforgiveness is a wall that gets taller and taller after every incident.

Keeps out the fear of losing control

Forgiving is often about giving up control. There is that feeling that the offender should suffer.

It is very hard when there are long term consequences from the incident.

I.e. Health, financial issues, relationship damage.

It is very hard to release control when there are repeated offences and repeated forgiveness in the past.

HOWEVER we have to realize that although some forgiveness takes time to be realized in our actions, they all start by a choice to “clean the filter”.

Prov. 3: 5,6 > Trust in the Lord with all your heart.....

Keeps out the fear of rejection

When you seek forgiveness you may get “no” as an answer. Sometimes our response to genuine forgiveness has to be BY FAITH and not by FEELINGS.

Women: You can release the past and let the Lord order the healing and restoration.

Men: You can release the future and let the Lord order your steps of planning a new way. WE can not always fix the past so the future looks like we want it to be. IN the Spiritual realm yes, in the flesh.....not necessarily.

Keeps out the fear of failure

Forgiveness and failure are often connected.

We are aware that the Lord can release us at any point to forgive. We need to realize that our step of obedience will bear fruit beyond the action. In obedience God extends Himself through us into the heart of the other.

