



**Blind spot
Take care**

Yes, we all have “blind spots.” Things we do not see or things we choose to no longer see and keep in mind. Things we don’t even think about anymore. We all have them. We simply choose to ignore them. We think and even believe that they are no longer there anymore. Unfortunately, they are. One of those “blind spots” that we all have is in the area of forgiving someone of something. In other words, I am speaking about the “blind spot” of – unforgiveness.

Yes, there truly is power in forgiving someone who has wronged you. There is power in forgiving those whom you simply did not like and still do not like. There is power in walking in forgiveness to those who have used you or spitefully used you and even who may have even abused you.

There are many, many scriptures found within the Word that speak about this most important aspect of a believer’s life which is known as “forgiveness.” There are countless messages and writings based on this most important subject. There have been many different aspects and reasoning based on this topic. It all depends on who you listen to or who you read. In other words this, we can say, is a well worn topic within the Body of Christ.

I know that many who have simply read the first few paragraphs of this essay have simply either placed it aside or simply deleted it. The reason being is that they most likely have thought and believed that they have read or heard everything there is concerning forgiveness. That may be true. However, the problem of walking in unforgiveness has been and continues to be so very prevalent within the Body of Christ, even today and yes even in the lives of most believers today.

I dare say that there is not much more I would like to share on this topic. It has been discussed and talked about time and time again. However, have we ever thought why it has been talked about and discussed and written about for so long? I believe the answer is that we haven’t gotten it right yet. Not that the things people have spoken, written about and shared has not been or is not solid and based on the word. On the contrary, there are many, many good lessons and teachings concerning forgiveness. The main problem when it comes to forgiveness is – you and me.

Unfortunately, this has been a never ending problem for everyone. Let’s face it. The issue, or I should say the problem, with forgiving others has been an issue from the very beginning of man upon this earth. Yes, man has had this problem with the area of “forgiveness” from the beginning of the Bible. Adam and Eve had the ability to receive not just God’s love but His forgiveness, immediately following their sin.

If we notice, immediately after their sin, God came to Adam and Eve. We see that it was both of them who tried to hide their sin. They were the ones who failed to receive God’s forgiveness. It was offered to both of them. However, they both refused to repent. The result was that they were banished from the Garden and here we are today.

We see the same thing happened with Cain and Abel. Cain refused to receive correction and repent from His incorrect actions which were actually against God. However, he decided to blame Abel instead of repent before God. A root of jealousy led to the root of unforgiveness. He blamed Abel for his own misconduct. A root of bitterness which led to the root of unforgiveness towards Abel rose up within Cain.

The result, as we know, was that Cain slew Abel. When he was confronted by God, Cain refused to not only repent but he refused to acknowledge His own sinful ways. We all know the result – banishment from not only what he knew and what he had but also he was banished from having a relationship with God. We

know that he was “marked” for life because of his failure to repent from his actions and his unforgiveness towards Abel and of course – God.

What I am sharing is not new to us. We have all heard messages and we have all heard and read God’s Word on the subject of walking and living in the area of unforgiveness. There is nothing new under the sun concerning this topic. However, the problem continues. The sad part is that it lives within the lives of those who call themselves believers in Christ and who say they are children of God. Let’s face it – we all have difficulty in this area.

I know that many of us are saying to themselves that this does not apply to you. I understand and I am completely in agreement with you. After all, I understand and I do not walk in unforgiveness, neither do I have this problem. Well, of course this does not include the way I feel about “so and so.” Of course I am not referring to the problem(s) I have or the way I feel about “so and so.” Uh-oh. Am I in denial concerning this area in my life? Do I have a blind spot when it comes to this area in my life? Do you have a “blind spot” where maybe you are justifying the way you look at an individual? Hmmm...

The truth of the matter is that if we are honest, we all are dealing with these types of issues within our lives. I know that it may be very difficult for any one of us to admit this – especially to ourselves. After all, we are believers in Jesus. We pray regularly. We may be a leader or even a Pastor within the Body of Christ we go to or belong to.

Too many of us seem to bury these things because of who we think we are or because of what we do. We tell others to forgive. We are so very quick to tell others to forgive those who have hurt them and to “let it go.” Well, I believe the time is now that each and every one of us within the Body of Christ deals with this particular issue now, at this time, personally!!!

You may be saying to yourself that this is in no way refers to you. Well, the truth of the matter is I do not have anyone in mind other than myself. If I am truly honest before the Lord, I can name many people who over the years have hurt me and that I still have an unforgiveness towards. Oh, it may not be a burning feeling that is with me every moment of the day. However, it is still lurking within.

Maybe there are those who I have held unforgiveness who I have not seen in many, many years. It could be that some have even passed away. Some may have been put out of my mind. There are many whom I choose to not even think about. However, the fact remains – I still hold on to and still have a lack of true forgiveness towards many people. It does not matter whether they are “saved” or not. The real issue is me.

There are many scriptures found within the Word of God that deal with getting rid of unforgiveness. There are countless scriptures that we all can recite and look up when we speak on or about forgiveness. I am not going to go over or quote scripture after scripture on forgiveness and its importance to the believer within their life. For most of us – we are well aware of those scriptures.

However, there is one scripture that I would like for us to review for a moment. It is found in 2Corinthians 2:5-9. In this scripture we see Paul bringing correction to those in the church at Corinth concerning a person whom they had brought correction to but misunderstood what the correction was actually to do. To correctly understand the whole picture of what was going on we must first look at 1Corinthians 5:1-6.

In these scriptures we see that Paul is bringing correction to the entire church at Corinth. He refers to a man within the church who it seems is having an incestuous relationship with His step-mother. The church and its leadership are doing nothing about it. This could be looked upon in two ways.

The first way is that those within the church, who were once pagans and this kind of behavior was normal, did not understand nor did they see that what was happening was against God and His ways. The other way we may look at it is that the Corinthian church and its leadership had misunderstood the meaning of God's love and His desire for His people to live a life that He desired. Whichever way they were looking at it, we understand through Paul's writing that either way was incorrect.

In 1Corinthians 5:1-5, we see that Paul directs them in how to deal with the problem. We do see Paul's heart however. It was not to simply banish the individual forever. There is an opportunity given for the man to repent and then to be brought back into the Body. He tells us this in 1Corinthians 5:5 as He states that the most important thing is the man's spirit.

Paul's desire is to save this man. It was not Paul's desire to simply throw the man out of the body. However, it is important that the Corinthian body does not allow or condone this type of behavior to stay within the body at Corinth. He makes this very clear with the statement found in 1Corinthians 5:6 as he states, *"Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"*

In 2Corinthians 2:5-9, we see Paul writing to the Corinthians concerning this man. It has been a few years, maybe 3 or 4 years, that they had asked this man to leave the body. We are not sure that it took 3-4 years for the man to have owned up to his fault and leave the incestuous affair. However, it has taken Paul and the Corinthian body at least 3 years to get to this point where they would now listen to him. We see that this seemed to be a pressing matter to Paul because we read of this event in his writing to the Corinthians very early in this letter (chapter 2).

The Corinthians, it would seem, took the measure of bringing correction to the wrong degree. They were actually dealing with a wrong concept of forgiveness. They were under the impression that it was "one strike and you are out." They themselves whether they realized it or not were walking in unforgiveness towards this man. They refused this man the right to return to the Body even though he had repented. This was such an important matter to Paul that as soon as they opened themselves up to finally hear Paul again he immediately tells them to walk in forgiveness and let the man back into the Body there at Corinth.

If it was such an important issue to Paul, so much so that he writes of it at the beginning of his letter, then we must take a good hard look at this issue for our own lives. In Corinth, the people had first received Paul and were taught by him for 15 months to two years. He stayed and taught them the things of God. When Paul left them they were fine.

But then... some "new people" came to town and denigrated Paul. It came to the point that when he did try to visit them a second time, it was so brief, so much so that he barely made it out of Corinth alive. Now, in 2Corinthians, we see that it was about 3years later and the Corinthians must have seen their error and had reached out to Paul. For those three years they were in bondage to incorrect teaching which had included an incorrect teaching on what forgiveness truly was.

As I had mentioned, there are countless scriptures and there have been countless teachings on forgiveness. I am quite sure that each one of you could teach me many things concerning the area of living and walking in forgiveness. However, that is not my point of writing this little essay. My main point is that we must take all that we know concerning forgiveness and first, I really mean first, apply it **within our own lives**.

When we do not walk in forgiveness, even in the minutest way – it will most definitely affect us. We must take a good hard and deep look within our own hearts to see the areas that have been actually hindering each one of us. God is very clear in this issue. He tells us that unless we forgive others, He will not forgive us. Hmmm.....

There may be those with whom we disagree over things such as the Word, politics, social issues, etc. It is okay to disagree. However, we must be careful to not allow a disagreement to fester into a hurt or anger. That hurt and anger can then turn into a root of bitterness and contention leading to a deep schism within us of unforgiveness towards a person or a whole group.

Jesus calls us to be like Him. In Him, even though he was rejected, was disagreed with and even put to death, we know without a shadow of a doubt that He walked, lived and with every breath He breathed while He walked this earth, expressed love to all He came in contact with. When He was on the cross, Jesus expressed His love and forgiveness towards those who put Him there by expressing, *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”* Even though Jesus may not have met personally with every person while here on this earth, we know that He loved each and every one of them with all His heart.

As His representative figure here on this earth, we are to walk in the same lifestyle and behavior that Jesus walked in. We are to walk, live and breathe in peace with all people. We must remember that we are sojourners here on this earth. Our “homeland” is awaiting us. Until we get to our homeland, each one of us, as His true believers, is to walk as He walked. One of these aspects of “walking as He walked” is walking in true forgiveness towards others.

I encourage each of us to look deep within our own life, our own soul, our own heart, to see who we truly have been holding unforgiveness towards. This is difficult. However, as a believer in Christ it is not impossible. We can do all things in and through Him – if we choose to. Yes, this is a choice. However, as we begin a new year but most importantly, as we begin and enter into the next aspect of our walk with the Lord, we need to take and make these steps.

Walking in true forgiveness to others who have hurt us or to whom we even tremendously disagree with, is truly the first step we must take for the remainder of our lives. If we truly desire to be one who is truly living unto Jesus then we must follow His role-model, follow His Word and truly follow Him.

One of the most important ways to truly follow Jesus is to walk in true forgiveness to everyone who has hurt you. I mean everyone – past and present. Each of us must take stock of what is truly within our own heart. Hey, we cannot hide it from God. He knows our hearts better than we do.

I know this can be and will be difficult for all of us. However, it is a command of God. Most importantly it is who He is. If He dwells within us then we are to express Him in every aspect of our lives – including the area of forgiving others. Colossians 3:13 tell us, *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”* It is time to get rid those “blind spots.” so