



# What the World Needs Now Is...

## Forgiving Love

Forgiving love heals hurts and helps people (\_\_\_\_\_) feel accepted and connected.

### Every \_\_\_\_\_ relationship opens us up to hurt \_\_\_\_\_

We have all been on the offending side of conflict, and we have all been on the receiving end, feeling the pain of hurt and disappointment.

Whether you were hurt or caused the hurt, every \_\_\_\_\_ offense needs a resolution \_\_\_\_\_

### A pattern that produces pain \_\_\_\_\_

- **The offense** \_\_\_\_\_ - It all starts when one person offends the other in some way.
  - Conflicts often result from differences \_\_\_\_\_
  - An offense is sometimes the result of sin \_\_\_\_\_  
"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." **James 4:17 NKJV**
- **The hurt** \_\_\_\_\_ - Relational offenses traumatize our emotions.
  - The level of hurt may vary depending on the type \_\_\_\_\_ and persistence \_\_\_\_\_ of the offense.
  - Regardless of the severity of the painful incident, if it is dealt with quickly \_\_\_\_\_, it will have minimal \_\_\_\_\_ consequences on the relationship.
- **The anger** \_\_\_\_\_ - Anger often prevents conflicts from being resolved peacefully.
  - Hurt is the God-given emotion warning us to stop \_\_\_\_\_ immediately and resolve \_\_\_\_\_ the situation.
  - Anger itself is not \_\_\_\_\_ sin, but handling anger inappropriately may lead to sin – hurtful words, bitterness or violence. (**Ephesians 4:26-27**)

### Responding to the Pattern: Two choices

Choice # 1	Choice # 2
<u>Ignore</u> _____ the offense	<u>Forgiving</u> _____ Love

### What is Forgiving Love?

- Forgiving love is God's \_\_\_\_\_ grace applied by \_\_\_\_\_ and between \_\_\_\_\_ human beings.
  - What has God's grace done for us? (**Colossians 1:12-22; 1 John 1:9**)
  - "When you exhibit the grace of forgiving love toward others you change the entire tone of the relationship. No longer are you like referees counting each other's fouls, ready to toss each other out of the game. That relationship becomes a safe place where you don't have to hide your foibles and your failings. Instead of being scrutinized and condemned for your shortcomings, you feel accepted and forgiven." (Gary Rosberg)
- Forgiving love is love that disposes of the wrongs done against \_\_\_\_\_ you – and by \_\_\_\_\_ you.

### With Forgiveness there is a Cost

- For those who seek \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness
  - You must surrender your pride \_\_\_\_\_
  - You must admit your guilt \_\_\_\_\_
  - You must seek restoration \_\_\_\_\_
- For those who grant \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness
  - You must release \_\_\_\_\_ the offending person
  - You must give up control of revenge \_\_\_\_\_ and retribution \_\_\_\_\_
  - You must allow God \_\_\_\_\_ to work in his or her heart.

### How can you live out Forgiving Love?

- Be \_\_\_\_\_ who you are in \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Colossians 3:12-14 NLT**

<sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

<sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

<sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

- Let Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ bear the fruit of forgiveness through \_\_\_\_\_ you. (**John 15**)

Receive – Rejoice - Release

**Forgiving Love heals Wounded Relationships**

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Whether you were hurt or caused the hurt,  
\_\_\_\_\_ offense needs a \_\_\_\_\_

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inappropriately may lead to sin – hurtful words, bitterness  
or violence. (**Ephesians 4:26-27**)

## Responding to the Pattern: \_\_\_\_\_ choices

Choice # 1

Choice # 2

\_\_\_\_\_ the offense \_\_\_\_\_ Love

## What is Forgiving Love?

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\_\_\_\_\_ human beings.
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- For those who \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness
  - You must surrender your \_\_\_\_\_
  - You must admit your \_\_\_\_\_
  - You must seek \_\_\_\_\_
- For those who \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness
  - You must \_\_\_\_\_ the offending person
  - You must give up control of \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - You must allow \_\_\_\_\_ to work in his or her heart.

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