

02142021 love is...Peacemaking *do you realize love is the greatest commandment in scripture? MT 22:*

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

- **Do you realize...Your capacity to love is in direct correlation to the capacity to forgive...**

*Luke 7:47* <sup>47</sup> “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”

**A spiritual principle... little forgiveness...little love...great forgiveness...great love...love and forgiveness intricately linked**

- **She knew what it meant to be a mess...so she could identify with the messy.**
- **She also knew what it meant of be forgiven.... Not being condemned any longer and the freedom it brought to her life...**
- **So to forgive others would bring freedom to them...**
- **Freedom to what?? Freedom to love and be around anyone...to longer less than but equal..**
- **Simon, on the other hand, had little regard for Jesus considered himself at the least equal to Jesus ...and much more worthy as a human being than this known sinner... and because he was self-righteous and blind to his own need for forgiveness...had little love or forgiveness to the human condition...**
- **Therefore like the Grinch his heart was two sizes too small!!**

**It is interesting that the deeper our wounds the greater capacity to empathize with the pain of others followed by a deeper well of love toward God and others.....an understanding of the real human condition...**

**Why? Because all relationships require ongoing forgiveness in order to thrive. Except one...our relationship with God...**

*MT 18:21* Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone<sup>[i]</sup> who sins against me? Seven times?” <sup>22</sup> “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!<sup>[i]</sup>

- **An infinite number of times...or as long as they are human...Why do this?**

**because it is what God does for us, and** is the outward demonstration we belong to the family of GoD

**Jesus said...**

*Matthew 5:9* <sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

**The peacemakers shall be called children of God. For Jesus was called The Prince of Peace ...we as fellow children of God, are therefore princes and princesses of Peace also... it is an identifier of our lineage! But it is WORK!**

**\*\*\*\*So what does being a child of God peacemaker look like? Well the opposite of Peacemaking is WAR-Making The blessing is for those who "work" peace. So..Peacemaking means to end a personal war..**

- **In other words, his blessing is for those who actively work to create peaceful relationships happen.**

**\*\*\*As Psalm 34:** Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help.

**Since peacemaking involves active interventions in difficult relational conflicts, it is not a weakness, but a spiritual strength...must be wroked at...**

- **peacemaker's overcomes evil with goodness and wisdom.**
- **The peacemaker's goal is to end the hostility between two parties and if possible restore the relationship.**
- **The beatitude says that the peacemakers will be called "the sons of God." means to bear the likeness or the characteristic of God**

**\*\*\*\*What does Peacemaking look like?...It looks like true Forgiveness**

**The first Step to Peacemaking is the mind set to give up any hope of having a better past... What keeps us at war with people? we have been hurt...we want revenge or at least justice...we want them to hurt, like we have been hurt...**

**listen...Peacemaking is leaving revenge or punishment up to God...**

**So Paul leaves us this comfort...** *Rom 12: 19* Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back,"<sup>[g]</sup> says the LORD.

**Without forgiveness we are continually at war with each other... therefore continuing the cycle of hurting for being hurt... and this war making spills into our relationships with other people ...**

- **My desire when Gabe dies was to seek revenge on His connection who was also a friend of our family...I wanted to hunt him down...make him suffer as we are suffering...one day he Therese and I were waiting to pulling out of a restruant ... he walked right in front of our car... now was our chance....but at what cost**
- **Our Sarah was threatened a week before she was murdered...I have thought and nursed the idea of I should have flown out to Texas immediately waited for him and killed him....**
- **all of which would have resulted in the deatruction of our family to even a greater way... **the collateral damage effects everyone else we are in relationship with!****
- **But even for lessor transgressions people seeking their own revenge ...have done much harm to other relationships in the hope of getting some kind of vigilante justice!**
- **That is why so many people only have superficial short term relationships ...because when their hurt they get bitter go to war and move on... and the consequences of living in unforgiveness is a life of resentment and isolation.**
- **Others who do stay in relationship dig trenches and continually fire at each-other**

**\*\*\*In Relationship wars ...we give and receive wounds..those wounds look like this**

*Paul says it well... Ephesians 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, (attitude) rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior(willful violent actions). <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other(Action), tenderhearted(attitude), forgiving one another(action), just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (mimicking our Family)*

- **Nursing War wounds eat up a lot of energy...slows our life down If you are locked in war over the past, you have less available energy for your life now.**  
**Unforgiveness destroys relationships...**

**\*\*\*But here is the Beauty... Peace and war cannot simultaneously reside in the same Space...**

**If you forgive someone's hurts they are removed...I choose to not be at war with you any longer...I get peace... something happens inside of our souls, I can then start to heal.**

**So Here is how we become peace makers... It is essential that I decide I want to be at peace therefore I must forgive the one who injured me. I might be able to be at peace with the offender...but regardless I will be at peace !**

- **Forgiving others spares us from the consequences of living out the stress of maintaining a war!! in ourselves , with God, or others.**
- ***An old Chinese proverb rightly states "The man who opts for revenge should dig two graves." One for himself and one for the offender...it kills them both***

**\*\*\* Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin... I am going to live with that whether I war with them or be at peace with them. the hurt and pain happened... I cannot fix it, but I can be free from its control over me in the present and future**

- How many people blame their past..for their present failures and lack of hope for the future?
- we are all living with the consequences of someone's else's sin against us ...The only choice is whether we do so in the bondage of bitterness or in the peace of forgiveness and you will be able to direct your life in positive thoughts and actions.
- Allow God to bring to the surface the painful memories and acknowledge how you feel with those who have hurt you...then put your weapons down...allow God to deal with them...

### So how do we forgive?

#### 1. To forgive I must Acknowledge the Hurt, the pain and the Wrong...or else it is peace faking!

- A hurt that is acknowledged... is a hurt that can be forgiven and healed allow yourself to say, I was hurt/offended when my spouse/him/her/they... did/said... this. Instead of suppressing our feelings, we must come to grips with them.
- Instead of turning from the pain and anger, we must face them.
- How I was hurt, what it made me feel like, the consequences it has had on my life...that is acknowledgment.
- And one cannot truly forgive without experiencing the emotion of grief...loss
- The cup of our emotional pain and grief must be poured out...
- It is a well established fact that healing is a process...and forgiveness acknowledges the grief and pain we experience through the hurtful acts of others.

#### 2). Forgiveness is choosing not to hold someone's sin against them any longer

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

I allow it to be...part of our relationship...but it does not define our relationship...

Holding someone's sin against them is a lot of work...it is heavy takes mental energy ..energy that can be used for productive things..

- And you cannot bear with someone long you are carrying grievances against!
- Like God does us

*HEB 10:17 17 Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds." 18 And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.*

- How has God forgiven us? He does not keep a record of wrongs...He ceases to bring up our record of wrongs in the future, the wrong has been paid in full. the debt owed for the wrong has been paid.
- Unforgiveness makes us repay the debt over and over...ie... say sorry over and over in the future, the debt is never canceled.
- Some people forgive...but continually remind the offender at opportune times...how much they still owe for being forgiven...God does not make us keep sacrificing over and over again for the same sin.

It is common for bitter people to bring up past offenses with those who have hurt them They want them to feel as bad as they do...but there is little value...Love is what changes people

*Romans 2:4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?*

**3). Forgiving does not necessarily involve Reconciliation... full reconciliation is the ideal in human relationships, but it is not always possible.**

- **Reconciliation is the responsibility of both the forgiver *and* the injurer, not the forgiver alone. it takes two making the changes necessary to walk in peace together**
- **Reconciliation requires two people making the decision to change in their relationship...to turn and move toward each other....**
- Peacemaking does not mean going back to a dangerous or abusive situation...because the injuring party says their sorry...
- **Forgiveness does not necessarily include full restoration of trust broken by an injury. Part of peace making is to set clear-cut boundaries that protect us from further harm.**
- **\*\*\*\*\*One might even have to adjust their life for the absence of someone, rather than adjust their boundaries to accommodate more abuse...**
- **Forgiveness does not necessarily include full restoration of trust broken by an injury. Part of peace making is to set clear-cut boundaries that protect us from further harm.**
- Forgiving from our heart isn't being a punching bag. Although the Lord forgives, he doesn't tolerate sin, and neither should we.
- Nor is "Forgiveness is not a magic trick that allows us to control other people." I can continue hurting you because you have to forgive me!!!
- **I'll keep forgiving even though he never changes, since that's what Jesus calls me to do. Yes, Jesus asks us to forgive over and over, but he never asks us to put up with wrong behavior over and over!!**
- Part of peace making is to set clear-cut boundaries that protect us from further harm.
- **Also Forgiving does not necessarily involve...The exemption of the injurer from the demands of justice,**
- In Jesus' "Parable of the Prodigal Son," the father forgives his errant son. However, he does not also seek to divide his estate between his two sons a second time, as if the younger son had not already received his fair share.
- Peace making honors fair treatment of the elder brother and the ultimate responsibility of the younger son for his actions.

#### **4) Finally Everyday I need to make peace in my Heart..**

*Romans 12 :17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.*

**The words "Do all that you can" implies that it may not always be possible to maintain peaceful relationships, and the words "as far as it depends on you" mean that it is you are not always able to maintain peace in some relationships...**

- **We are hurt often...we need to be diligent peace keepers...** I think this is why Jesus told his students to forgive “seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:21). **Forgiveness in this sense is rarely easy or quick. We might have to do it over and over again in our minds..**
- **If I forgive someone for a wrong done to me, I no longer allow that event to determine how I treat the other person.**
- **I may remember the wrong or I may forget it, but either way I have disarmed it.**
- **It no longer determines my actions, thoughts, or words.**
- **Spend a few minutes each **day** cleaning out your thinking/heart.**
- **Practice on small hurts. the little battles! To become a generous forgiver of major pains, practice forgiveness on small hurts. - **a rude clerk, a driver who cut you off, a doctor who keeps you waiting and waiting, etc.****
- **Use those events as practice time to prepare you for the tougher task of forgiving major hurts...**
- **Work up too major ones...caused by those near to us...and those that we still carry from our past**
- **forgiveness opens the way to healing of the war wounds we all receive living in this world...and opens the door of peace! Just what the world needs!**
- **end**





*end*

- **Forgiving from our heart isn't being a punching bag. Although the Lord forgives, he doesn't tolerate sin, and neither should we.**
- **Jesus' "Parable of the Prodigal Son" presents a wonderful image of reconciliation and reunion between a father and his son.**
- **But the sad reality of life is that not all prodigals return home.**
- **Neither do all prodigals recognize, take responsibility for, or even cease their injurious acts.**

➤ the number one reason why Forgiveness is so important.... Even when they are not sorry ....

**I do my self a favor to forgive others...It is in your own best interest...it is good for you..**

*RO 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

God will take care of evil...if not in this world the next...

- He is trustworthy for us to leave pay back to him.
- Forgiveness is mandatory...an act between us and God

2) I reap what I sow... Scripture plainly teaches that you will reap what you so...

**Galatians 6:7**NIV Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. NLT 7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

- Scripture plainly teaches that you will reap what you so...
- I need a lot of mercy...so I am going to sow a lot of mercy...
- I do not want to reap a lot of judgment ...so I will sow much forgiveness...
- I want lots of love...so I will sow lots of love...
- I want lots of patience...I will sow lots of Patience
- I want good...so I will sow good

3) it

*Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

**2 Corinthians 5:**<sup>18</sup> *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

*Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

- The words "if it is possible" imply that it may not always be possible to maintain peaceful relationships, and the words "as far as it depends on you" mean that it is you are not always able to maintain peace in some relationships...
- Some people speak as if Jesus and the apostles lived in peace with everyone, and that it is possible for us to do so. This is false – they did not do it, it is not always possible, and it is not always up to us.
- Even when we make every effort to maintain the peace in a relationship, the other party may refuse
- In such cases, we may still try to make peace, at times by enduring injustice and suffering loss, but there are occasions when it is appropriate to bring the matter before the state court.
- It is true that Paul says there should not be lawsuits among believers (1 Corinthians 6:7), and that is why we must first follow the procedure dictated to us by Christ, who says

*Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the Children of God*

- The peacemakers shall be called children of God. For Jesus was called The Prince of Peace ...we as fellow children of God, are therefore princes and princesses of Peace also... it is an identifier of our lineage!

***Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

- We like to make Jesus simple...But he is far more than we can imagine or comprehend...Almost in the same breath the prophet calls him a leader of a great government yet a “child,” he is a “counselor,” and a son given to us,” the mighty Mighty God and “the everlasting Father and Prince of Peace! .” it is an amazing marvel that he who was an infant should at the same time be infinite, a mighty God, a Father to creation...all things being made through him and for him...and bringing a rebellious Kingdom to Peace...first with God, then ourselves then others...
- **This will be the rule of the Kingdom on earth just as it is the rule of the Kingdom in Heavens the prophet goes on to say**

*Isaiah 9:7* Of the greatness of his government and **peace** there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with **justice** and **righteousness** from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this

- **Jesus is the King over the whole earth and His Kingdom is one of peace...*He is zealous which means Fanatical to carry this out!!***
- **It is not the avoidance of trouble in proud isolation...which is Peace Faking!!**
- Peace is a call to heroic activity. It is God's work, in which we may share.
- we as children of God shall know personal peace... and be peace makers in our world!
- **The word "peace" is not just the absence of war, but a positive state of well-being... I am ok.. Peace is a quietness of the soul...and mind in the midst of noise...**