

02212021 Love is... living in Peace with others... **Jesus is the King over the whole earth** and His Kingdom is one of peace... Bring and establishing Peace is God's work, in which we share.

- we as children of God shall know personal peace... and be peace makers in our world..... Jesus said...

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

The peacemakers shall be called children of God..it is one of the image bearing traits we all carry.... **The word "peace" is not just the absence of war, but a positive state of well-being between humans and between God and Humans...**

**Since 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 image!**

- **The peacemaker's goal is to end the hostility between two parties and if possible restore the relationship.**

**Why is this Peace so important???** because in this world we will experience...conflict...hurt...trouble...war...personally and collectively

*NLT John 16: <sup>33</sup> I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

- **When you know there will be troubles and trials and battles in the Saturdy of life..and you expect them...you are half way to peace...**
- **Take Heart...keep your heart strong! you know that Jesus has overcome them all... he brought the way of peace...before any trouble ever comes to you..**
- **Evil and wrong ultimately will not win... God is bigger than life Life is bigger than loss**

**\*\*\*So what does being a child of God peacemaker look like? Well the opposite of Peacemaking is WAR-Making ....War-making requires a lot of**

work...Why? you have to maintain the war! it takes a heavy toll on us...it requires a lot of mental energy ..energy that can't be used for other productive things..

- you have to continually reinforce : Bitterness and Resentment..replaying the offense over and over again... reopening the wound and nursing it...dredging a deep grudge in our heart
- *these wounds eat up a lot of energy... If you are locked in war with someone over the hurt, you have less available energy for your life now.unforgiveness is another word for War -making....Unforgiveness destroys relationships...*
- When you won't forgive someone, it negatively infects your family and friends.
- Because war making always spills into our relationships with other people ...
- 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 ultimate isolation.
- **Others who do stay in the relationship simply dig trenches and continually fire wounding ammo at eachother**

\*\*\*In Relationship wars ...we give and receive wounds..those wounds look like this..first with God and then with others

Paul say it well... *Ephesians 4: <sup>30</sup> And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness,(attitude) rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. (violent willful actions) <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, (attitude) just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (mimicking our Heavenly Father and esus actions and attitude toward us..)*

**\*\*\*But here is the Beauty...If you forgive someone's hurts they are removed...I am not at war with you any longer...I get freedom... something**

**happens inside of our souls, I can them healing...Peace and war cannot simultaneously reside in the same Space...**

**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 not be able to be at peace with the offender...but regardless I will be at peace !**

**\*\*\*Let me demonstrate..... how to forgive\*\*\*\*\***

- **Those I don't forgive... I carry with me in my life maintaining the WAR!** (show the backpack of potatoes... These Potatoes represent people places and things that have hurt us, and it still hurt as we carry them around...sometimes we think we get rid of them by moving them away from us ..to the backpack! ...
- **So the Unforgiveness goes from an attitude of the heart to a burden in the life...**
- **Nursing Unforgiveness requires energy.... every now and then you like to pull it out and relive it...and ruminate**
- **Then something happens ...that wound which was once fresh...begins to decay and become moldy...and roots begin to grow out Roots of bitterness and Resentment.... put their stench in our lives... no one wants to be around you...**
- **as this stench, stains every new and existing relationship. so the answer...get the potatoes out!**  
**I take out the potatoes...one by one**

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

- a. **The cup of our emotional pain and grief must be poured out...**
- b. **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.**
- c. **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...**

**2). Forgiving is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin..I will live with them anyway.**

- **However I can be free from its control over me in the present and future**

**3). Forgiveness is choosing not to hold onto someone's sin against Them any longer**

*COL 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

- **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 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."  
18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.*

**4). Forgiving does not necessarily involve Reconciliation...though that is the desire... According to Scripture, full reconciliation is the ideal in human relationships.**

**A. Reconciliation requires two people making the decision to change in their relationship...to turn and move toward each other....**

**B. Peacemaking does not mean going back to a dangerous or abusive situation...because the injuring party says their sorry...**

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

**C. The words "if it is possible" imply that it may not always be possible to maintain peaceful relationships,**

**D. The injured party can forgive an offender even though the offender may never (or for safety sake, must never) be a part of his or her life in the future.**

**E.** 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!!!

**F.** *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!!*

**G.** 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.

**H.** Also Forgiving does not necessarily involve...The exemption of the injurer from the demands of justice,

**5) We are hurt often...we need to be diligent forgivers** "seventy times seven" **We will have to do it over and over again in our minds..**

- 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!
- And when placed in God's bucket...he will deal with them fairly something we cannot do....
- God's evaluation of a person comes at the end of the construction project.
- **one by one...incident by incident... it is a choice to forgive ...and one must acknowledge the hurt, hate pain, and consequences of this action...**
- **and I choose to drop the case...and trust God to deal with them fairly something I cannot do...I then I ask God to heal my damaged emotions ...**  
**Then God does something for me...He Receives the potato out of my bucket into his...and gives me a healing balm...to heal my damaged emotions.... and gives them to me...**

**(maybe add the burden I carry is lighter and I get to replace the rotten potato with refreshing water, trail mix ...fruit ...joy , love, things that are actually helpful to carry in a back pack to deal with life...)**

**The Result... something miraculous begins to happen...I get free...my life becomes lighter...I grow in compassion...I feel for others... I look toward**

**the future...I have way more energy...and as God heals me I become of source of healing for others...**

**Here is an example of the way you can do it... true forgiveness can happen ...and you can be healed... ...acknowledg what they did..and how it impacted your life...and forgive them for that...give them to God to Judge...and then ask God to heal your damaged emotions because of it...**

**Father B. A little background..**

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**The priest that molested me headed up that list... I needed to forgive the church in general too. But I want to walk you through my forgiveness of Father B... as an example for you and my hope is it will help you ..if you have forgiveness issues yet undealt with.... Know this God wants to heal you and healing is possible and it is real...**

**Lord... I forgive Father B. for: Molesting me ...and how that messed with my mind and heart... I forgive him for...Taking advantage of an emotionally needy child...me**

- **Making me think he cared for me, and making me feel like I was special... when he was setting me as a tool for his own perverse pleasure**
- **I forgive him For robbing me of my innocence...**
- **I forgive him for....Abusing his position of religious authority...to fool my family**
- **I forgive him for ...For misrepresenting Jesus to me...as a condoner of hurt... For misrepresenting Jesus as a weakling with no power to stop evil**

- I forgive Father B....For turning me away from Jesus...and his church and his ways...
- I forgive Him for making me think all Christian are fake hypocrites...
- I forgive him for...Confusing me in my own sexuality...for filling me with shame and guilt...and the suffocating fear of anyone finding out...
- I forgive him for Confusing me about God... for blurring good and evil...right and wrong
- For making me feel less than, and not good enough, and that something was seriously wrong with me for this to happen...
- I forgive him for making me feel dirty...and sick... establishing a long inner struggle of low self worth...of feeling less than others
- I forgive him for making me carry a secret....that crushed my spirit....and fragmented my mind
- I forgive him for being a prime motivator of my distrust of...and rebellion against authority of all kinds.
- I forgive him for causing such a deep wound in my life ...that I was easy prey for the anesthetizing and pain reducing lure of alcohol and drugs...
- I forgive him even though he never was sorry

I prayed....Lord, I forgive him and surrender revenge and resentment and give up my right to hurt him for hurting me and leave him to you to judge... I pray that you Help him. Now I ask that you Please heal my damaged emotions, free me from the bondage of bitterness and revnege. ...And Jesus now that I forgive him ...I choose to take responsibility for my life... I choose to not blame him anymore for my actions in Your name I pray.

**Once forgiveness is offered and our heart wounds exposed and we pour out the cup of our grief and pain... right there in our hearts becomes the free space for God to enter in and begin the healing of the hurt and pain...**

**Wounds go deep but Gods healing goes deeper... changes our hearts...**

*Ezekiel 11:19NIV I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their **heart of stone** and give them a heart of flesh*



- He excises the hardened or calloused heart of woundedness and makes our hearts soft again...
- Your heart will grow soft again...he literally gives us a new heart... you will feel again...and....
- Your wound will become the means to lighten the burdens of the pain and sufferings of other.....

**God is the Great healer...I stand before you today as a testimony to that fact, what he has done for me he has done for countless others...in the world I am nobody but to God I am his precious child...and what he has done for me He will do for you!!!**

What were once deep wounds are now just scars...indicators of past hurt... no longer effecting me negatively...just a scar an indicator of a wound once suffered ...that can help someone else who is hurting know healing is available...

so today you can leave here knowing that true forgiveness can happen ...and you can be healed...write their names down ...acknowledged what they did..and how it impacted your life...and forgive them for that...give them to God to Judge...and then ask God to heal you damaged emotions because of it

Healing must begin with forgiveness because the forgiveness of Christ is the source of our healing, and our forgiveness of others is the means of sustaining our healing. Free your heart!



**Is there someone you are carrying around you need to give to God...letting them out of your bucket ...**

**And then healing really begins! The ones you carry will hinder every other relationship...run into people with the bucket... heavy load creates a bad attitude... the look at me I am a victim attitude**

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

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**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...**

**2). Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin..to become at Peace with it...it 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...The only choice is whether we do so in the bondage of bitterness or in the freedom of forgivenessand 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...**

**4). Forgiveness is choosing not to hold onto someone's sin against me any longer**



*COL 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

- **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..**
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*HEB 10:17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." <sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.*

- **How has God forgiven us? He does not keep a record of wrongs...nor does it have to be paid for over and over...**
- **Some people forgive...but continually remind the offender at opportune times...how much they 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**

**5). Forgiving does not necessarily involve Reconciliation...though that is the desire... According to Scripture, full reconciliation is the ideal in human relationships.**

- I. Reconciliation requires two people making the decision to change in their relationship...to turn and move toward each other....**
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**K.** The injured party can forgive an offender even though the offender may never (or for safety sake, must never) be a part of his or her life in the future.

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**6) 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 will have to do it over and over again in our minds..**

- 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!

- 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
- Those I don't forgive... I carry with me into my life (show the backpack of potatoes... These Potatoes represent people places and things that have hurt us, and it still hurt as we carry them around...sometimes we think we get rid of them by moving them away from us ..to the backpack! ...
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