

Letting Go as an Extreme Lifestyle, Nov. 21-24

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

HOUSEKEEPING:

- ➔ No Learning Community next week – Thanksgiving holiday
- ➔ **PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!** For God to get at soul-deep stuff individually and as church family.

Nov. 10 message - *Steps in choosing to live life as a Christ-following Forgiver*

Biblical Forgiveness – *choosing to let go of hurt into God’s hands*

Hurt happens

- ➔ It’s not the hurt, but what we do with it
- ➔ We cannot choose to not hurt, but we can choose to not take offense

Saul - **1 Samuel 18:5–18 (ESV)** (pew Bible page 241)

Unforgiveness:

- ✓ starts with a hurt
- ✓ nurtured by holding on to it, preoccupied we replay in our thoughts, feelings, conversations, actions
- ✓ which causes it to root deeper and grow bigger
- ✓ ultimately destroying us overtly or subtly

Example: Saul tried to kill David for 7-10 years. That obsession resulted in Saul losing God’s anointing, alienating his family, killing innocent Israelites, leading Israel to defeat and ultimately his death.

David - **1 Samuel 24:1–11 (ESV)** (pew Bible page 246)

Forgiveness

- ✓ starts with a hurt
- ✓ is nurtured by letting it go into God’s hands, preoccupied with surrendering to God in our thoughts, feelings, conversations and ACTIONS
- ✓ which causes love to root deeper and grow bigger
- ✓ ultimately blossoming in greater Abundant Life

Example: David sees Saul through God’s eyes, obeys God even though under pressure and pelted with Earthly Realm logic, remains on the run for years trusting God, leading to BECOMING more a man after God’s own heart, experiencing God’s Presence, approval and rewards.

- ➔ **Forgiveness** is a lifestyle of letting go of hurt, choosing not to TAKE offense by putting it into God’s hands, making room for God to work = LOVE in ACTION. Leads to **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**

Nov. 17 message - *Steps in choosing to live life as a Christ-following Forgiver*

1. The Standard.

1 Corinthians 13:4–8a (ESV)

- ➔ We tend to try harder when we need to surrender more.

2. The Root and Fruit.

We tend to focus on the fruit instead of dealing with the root.

- ➔ Root – character, true soul-deep person – **who we are**
- ➔ Fruit – behaviors that result from root – **how we live**

Matthew 7:16–20 (ESV)

John 7:38–39 (ESV) ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- ➔ When we hold on to hurt we are **Velcro**. When we are soul-deep like Christ, we are **Teflon**.

3. The Inspection – rate yourself 1 to 5. 1 = not at all; 5 = like Jesus.

1 Corinthians 13:4–8a (ESV)

Rating

- _____ **Patient:** long suffering, capacity to be wronged and not retaliate
- _____ **Kind:** provide something beneficial – concrete expression of love
- _____ does not **Envy:** desire to possess what another has
- _____ does not **Boast:** show off to gain attention, applause
- _____ is not **Arrogant:** praise oneself excessively, braggart
- _____ is not **Rude:** improper conduct results in embarrassment, disgrace, shame
- _____ does not **Insist on its own way:**
- _____ is not **Irritable (easily angered):** allow stuff to cause emotional outbursts, to eat at, make on edge
- _____ is not **Resentful (keeps record of wrongs):** hold on to the real or perceived wrongs done against
- _____ does not **rejoice at wrongdoing:** no pleasure at others' consequences, does not repeat or take advantage of it, does not cheer evil
- _____ **Rejoices with the truth:** glad however truth is seen, whether to our advantage or disadvantage, whether easy or not
- _____ **Bears:** puts up with annoyance, hardship, sacrifice incurred by others
- _____ **Believes:** willing to think the best, allowing for human weakness
- _____ **Hopes:** look forward with confidence to the good and beneficial
- _____ **Endures:** perseveres in difficulty and suffering, confident in God
- _____ **Never ends:** eternal when gifts and works do not

4. The Commitment – to deep soul development.

Luke 6:43–45 (ESV)

1. Notice the fruit – self, Throne Room, with others. The fruit identifies the root that must change.
2. Take it to God, ask for His eyes and what to do
3. Let go of the root/ soul-deep stuff He reveals
4. Obey – **ACT** in His power and His plan

Ephesians 3:20 (ESV) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV)

Takeaways...