



Generous Forgiveness
Colossians 3:13
September 14, 2014

Introduction:

Erwin Lutzer:

“When an offense festers in our hearts, we cannot confine it within our souls. Instead, it spills over in ways we don’t even realize. It’s like burning incense in a dormitory. The smell cannot be confined; rather it escapes the dorm room and walks down the hallway, into the washrooms, and all the way to the front door. Enabling an offense literally blinds us to our own faults, forces us to have skewed relationships, and warps our self-perceptions. Until forgiveness is complete, no person can live a Spirit filled life.”



Here’s A Thought:

Forgiveness does not necessarily mean reconciliation. Why? Because you can forgive people with whom you are not yet reconciled. Forgiveness is the decision of the offended party to release the party that has done them wrong, even if those two people never become friends again. Yes, forgiveness is the goal, but that may or may not happen depending upon the person who has been offended.

- I. Generous Forgiveness is Unilateral (one-sided).**
 - A. Forgiveness can occur even if the offended person hasn’t forgiven you.**
 - B. Forgiveness can occur even if the other person isn’t able to forgive you.**

- II. Generous Forgiveness is Transactional (two-sided).**

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against anyone: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Two types of forgiveness:

1. **Legal forgiveness**
2. **Relational forgiveness**

Many people grieve the Holy Spirit by simply talking, gossiping, and slandering the people that hurt you. We must stop seeking retribution toward the people that hurt us.

Takeaway:

If you are a child of God and you refuse to forgive, then you have blocked God's blessings into your life. Refusal to forgive in your horizontal relationships affects your vertical relationships.

Ephesians 4:30-32 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Genesis 50:20 What you meant for evil, God meant for good.

Takeaway:

We will never know how God will use the evil against us for good, until forgiveness has occurred.