



Unforgiveness

BARRIERS TO INTIMACY WITH GOD

Intimacy with God

- ▶ Pursuing God (*Psalms 63*)
- ▶ Our First Love (*Rev 2:1-7*)
- ▶ Transformed in His Presence
(*2 Cor 3:7-18*)
- ▶ Hearing God's Voice (*John 10*)

Barriers to Intimacy



- ▶ Unforgiveness
- ▶ Heart Wounds
- ▶ Mistaken Identity
- ▶ Cherished Sin
- ▶ Fears and Anxiety

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:23-26

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

Matthew 18:27-30



²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

Matthew 18:31-33

³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

Matthew 18:34-35

³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

The Call to Forgive

- ▶ Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you., forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- ▶ Matthew 6:12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

The Call to Forgive



- ▶ Col 3:12–13 ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Unforgiveness

- ▶ When we withhold forgiveness, we withhold love.
- ▶ 1 John 4:20–21 ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Unforgiveness



- ▶ Unforgiveness and bitterness can give Satan a foothold. (Eph 4:26-27)
- ▶ Forgiveness releases someone from a debt, and it frees you of bitterness and resentment.
- ▶ “Resentment is like taking poison and waiting for the other person to die.” – Carrie Fisher

Learning to Forgive

- ▶ Remember God's grace to you.
- ▶ Pray blessings on those who have wronged you. (Lk 6:27-28)
- ▶ Offer forgiveness according to the level of offense.
- ▶ Make the choice to forgive and trust God's strength.