

**Week 30**

**Forgiving Others**

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” – Rom 3:23*

*“...that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.” – 2 Cor 5:19*

We know that we all sin. We know in our minds that no one can claim to be perfect. When we talk about sin it often sounds abstract and distant, like taxes and computer problems. In the same way we readily admit, “No I’m not perfect, I sin, of course I sin, everyone sins.” Sin is the great equalizer.

At the same time, we also seem to expect that all of these sins that everyone commits should never effect me personally. They are just abstract sins. When someone’s impatience, anger, greed, carelessness, self-righteousness, or self-centeredness hurts us, we react with surprise. Suddenly this particular sin takes on a special degree of importance. It’s easy to forgive abstract sins, but not the ones that actually hurt us. The ones that hurt us are the ones that spoil relationships, end friendships, erode marriages, separate brothers and sisters and infect the atmosphere of life.

God deals with sin by forgiving the offense and not holding it against us. His forgiveness allows us to restore our relationship with Him. Our forgiveness of others allows us to maintain loving relationships with each other. Sin fractures, forgiveness unifies. We all sin, we all forgive.

But we often hesitate to forgive, forget, and reconcile because we are not ready to abandon our hurt. We want to extract some payment from the offender. We want to use the offense as a lever of control or inflict pain as compensation or as a silent form of rebuke. Then we justify our lack of forgiveness on the basis that the person needs to learn something from their offense. Therefore we are obligated to withhold our forgiveness until they are appropriately contrite and broken. It is not our place to decide how to leverage the sins of others to teach them what we want them to learn. God wants them to learn that He forgives sins and they learn about His forgiveness when we forgive them. Sin and forgiveness is not abstract. We are God’s ambassadors of forgiveness.

**This Week**

*Search your heart and make a list of people and offenses that are affecting your relationships. Take them one at a time and pray about them to God. Express your hurt and pain, confess your reluctance, remember the sins God has already forgiven in your life, pray your decision to forgive the offense. If the hurt returns, pray it again.*

**Week 30**

**Jul 25-31**

<b>Sun</b>	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			<b>25</b>
Nate Bufford				
<b>Ezra / Nehemiah (4)</b>				
<b>Mon</b>	1Sam 24	Matt 16	Psa 125	<b>26</b>
Kanad Prabhakar, Brent Kington				
<b>Tue</b>	1Sam 25	Matt 17	Psa 126	<b>27</b>
<b>Wed</b>	1Sam 26,27	Matt 18	Psa 127	<b>28</b>
<b>Thr</b>	1Sam 28,29	Matt 19	Psa 128	<b>29</b>
<b>Fri</b>	1Sam 30,31	Matt 20	Psa 129	<b>30</b>
<b>Sat</b>				<b>31</b>