



## #Seriously?: Forgiveness

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November 19, 2017

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-6*

### Ice-Breakers

1. This week is Thanksgiving, a time when many get together with extended family they don't see often. Share a funny story about a holiday gathering or family member you love but are grateful you don't see often.

**Sermon Discussion Questions:** As you discuss this week's message, you might want to think of a specific incident or person you haven't forgiven or struggled to forgive.

2. Pastor Robby shared that one reason we don't forgive is that we have a wrong understanding of forgiveness. It's not minimizing the seriousness of the offense, reconciliation, or forgetting what happened. How have you struggled with one of these ideas? Have you worked passed it? If so, how?
3. Pastor Robby challenged that forgiveness isn't a feeling but a choice. Discuss this thought and what you think about it.
4. Another reason we don't forgive is that we don't think we can do it. However, Philippians 4:13 tells us - *I can do everything through him who gives me strength*. Discuss how this challenges our thought that we can't.
5. Pastor Robby gave us three steps to take toward those who hurt us. First, Pray for them.- (Matthew 5:43-44) He stated that you can't pray for and hate someone at the same time. Have you ever tried this with someone? If so, share how it affected the incident and your impression of it.
6. Two other steps to take toward those who hurt you are: Bless them and do good to them. (Luke 6:27-28, Romans 12:14, 17-21) How does this walk out in the real world.
7. Pastor Robby stated that you don't have to feel it. Our choices lead and your feelings follow. Share an example of how doing something you didn't want to do eventually lead you to change your feelings or thoughts about the situation.

The First Step: *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* – Ephesians 4:31-32

Bottom Line: The forgiven forgive.

How's it going doing it your way? "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." – I Corinthians 1:25