



## Relate- People

### I. How I Relate to Myself

#### A. Identity

Col. 3:3- "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

#### B. Humility

Jeremiah 17:9- "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked..."

#### Paul's Pathway to Spiritual Maturity

Gal. 2:6 (AD 49)- "As for those who were held in high esteem- whatever they were makes no difference to me."

1 Cor. 15:9 (AD 55)- "I am the least of the apostles...persecuted the church."

Eph. 3:8 (AD 60)- "I am less than the least of all the LORD's people."

1 Tim. 1:15 (2 yrs. before his death)- "I am the worst of all sinners..."

*Picture- cracked pot*

### II. How I Relate to my Offenders

#### A. Unforgiveness

Matt. 6:14-15- "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Is this just God demanding more from me as I am already in pain, or is this God showing me a way of escape?"

**Picture- Hook**

1. **Judgment-** Matt. 7:1-2

2. **Revenge-** Romans 12:19

3. **Inner Vows-** Lev. 5:4-5

4. **Dishonoring People-** Exodus 20:12; Eph. 5:33

5. **Dishonoring God-** Psalm 51:4

#### B. Forgiveness

1. We forgive based on Christ's example.

Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

2. We forgive based on God's forgiveness.

Eph. 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

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3. We forgive decisively.

Mark 11:25- “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

4. We forgive with reconciliation in mind.

### **C. Reconciliation**

... to restore a broken relationship

... for spiritual growth

... it is a process

... it is conditioned based on the attitudes and actions of the offender.

Three main considerations that affect the timing:

1. The attitude of the offender

2. The depth of the betrayal

3. The pattern of the offense

### **1. Confrontation**

#### **Matt. 18:15-17**

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

### **2. Observation**

2 Cor. 7:10-11

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.”

### **Seven signs of genuineness:**

*>each on mouse click<*

1. Accepts full responsibility.

2. Accepts accountability.

3. Does not continue with the offense.

4. Does not have a defensive attitude.

5. Does not have a light attitude.

6. Does not resent doubts about his level of sincerity.

7. Makes restitution wherever necessary.

### **3. Personal Reflection**

1. Be honest with yourself.

2. Be humble.

3. Be prayerful.

4. Be willing to admit your part.

5. Be honest with the offender.

6. Be clear about restoration.

7. Be alert of Satan’s schemes.

8. Be open to what God might be teaching you.

9. Be realistic about the process.
10. Be hopeful of a restored relationship.

**During Communion**

Steps to Freedom:

1. Repent of your unforgiveness
2. Repent of specific judgments, vengeful thoughts, inner vows or dishonoring attitudes.
3. Release your hurt at the foot of the cross.
4. Pray for the heart of the one who hurt you.
5. Say 'thank you' to God for the pain.
6. Ask God to help you see how the hurt will bless you in some way.
7. Ask God to release the 'hook' of unforgiveness.