



Relate: People Study Guide

1. Read Colossians 3:3. How does the concept of being ‘in Christ’ help you not to be as offended when someone infringes on something of yours?
2. Paul’s spiritual maturity was characterized by an understanding of how deeply sinful he really was. (1 Tim. 1:15). He lived each day appropriating the gospel for himself. How does knowing your own brokenness help you not to be as offended when someone infringes on something of yours?
3. Read Matt. 6:14-15. Notice how important it is to forgive. Yet, an offense can be like a hook! It goes deep and is hard to release. Discuss how unforgiveness can lead to judgment, revenge, inner vows, dishonoring people and dishonoring God. Have you seen this happen with people?
4. Forgiveness. Discuss the following statements:
 - a. We forgive based on Jesus’ example (Luke 23:34)
 - b. We forgive based on God’s forgiveness (Eph. 4:32)
 - c. We forgive decisively (Mark 11:25)
5. *“I forgive him; I just never want to see him again.”*
Reconciliation is God’s best, it takes two, it is a process, it requires confrontation, observation and personal reflection. Discuss some of the signs of a person who is willing to reconcile based on 2 Cor. 7:10-11.

Reflection

Are you struggling with the hook of unforgiveness? Do you harbor some resentment?

Carve out alone time this week and talk to God about it.

Steps to freedom could look like this:

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.