



“I Love My Church”
Learning to Care for One Another!
Part 2
“The Trust!—Forgive One Another”
“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32
Love God. Love **One Another**

A. To care for one another, we must learn to forgive one another...

“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.” Ephesians 4:32-5:2

1. We must all come to know God’s forgiveness, remain grateful and stay focused on God’s forgiveness.
2. Strive to be an imitator of God through the example of Christ.
3. Live a life filled with love.
4. Show acts of kindness, demonstrate compassion, and forgive one another.

B. Because we all need forgiveness...

1. We forgive!

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14-15

2. We forgive more than once!

“Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven!’”

Matthew 18:21-22

3. We forgive to help them from being overwhelmed!

“I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement. So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him.” 2 Corinthians 2:5-8

4. We forgive because love calls us to forgive.

“Love is...it keeps no record of wrongs.” 1 Corinthians 13:4a,6

5. We forgive as a top priority!

“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.”

Matthew 5:23-24

6. We forgive rather than judge!

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.” Luke 6:37

7. We forgive because we are commanded!

“If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.” Luke 17:3-4

“Forgiveness is not a feeling. If you are waiting until the feeling to forgive comes upon you, it’s unlikely to occur. Forgiveness should be an act of obedience to God because we trust Him and believe He has our best interest at heart. God knows that hanging on to revenge, anger, and rage can destroy us spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Christ paid too much for his Beloved ones to have them a slave to anything, much less hatred. He wants His children free. And a person is never free when weighed down with the ball and chain of bitterness. When the cold shackles of revenge are tightly clasped around our wrists, it’s impossible to lift our hands in praise to Him.”
(Laura Petherbridge, from the crosswalk.com article, “What Forgiveness is NOT”)

C. Rebuilding trust and forgiveness are different...

Give forgiveness instantly but give trust slowly! Forgiveness cannot be earned, it is given! Trust cannot be given, it is earned! Trust, when broken, takes time and patience to rebuild! Trust is at the core of every relationship! It can take months or years to build and can be lost overnight!

1. To the trust breaker: Be completely honest and transparent. Accept consequences without excuses. Embrace the process and accept temporary limitations of freedom.

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”
1 John 1:9

2. To the trust giver: Begin by fully trusting God. Trust slowly and be aware of boundaries. Keep focused on moving forward without continually bringing up the past. Realize it is a process and will take time but know God can restore.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5

“It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” 1 Corinthians 13:7

“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,” Philippians 3:13

D. Building a safe place where we care for one another...

“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Colossians 3:13

1. A safe place is a place where we can ask questions without being embarrassed.
2. A safe place is a place where it is possible to fail. A safe place celebrates triumphs but comes along side when we fail.
3. A safe place is a place where you are not alone and there are others to help. (Of course they must know the need to help!)
4. A safe place is a place where all are respected and loved. A place where you are protected and unity is the theme.
5. A safe place is a place where there is consistency and security!

“One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.” Psalm 27:4-5