



The Protective Finishings

Philippians 3:10-14

A. Our Past Can Seep into Present Relationships.

1. We have all made mistakes in our past.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24 (NIV)

2. We all need to forgive and be forgiven.

“And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.” Matthew 6:12 (NIV)

3. God can forget our past.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” Hebrews 8:12 (NIV)

B. Forgiveness is Necessary for Letting The Past be The Past.

1. Forgiveness is a process within sanctification.

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

2. Forgiveness is a form of testifying to the world that the Good News is real.

“‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone

will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.’” John 13:34-35 (NIV)

3. Unforgiveness keeps us from a healthy relationship with God.

“But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:15 (KJV)

“In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can’t get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part.” Matthew 6:15 (MSG)

4. Unforgiveness keeps us from a healthy relationship with others.

“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 (NIV)

“Forgiveness is a process, yet one must be sure to extend forgiveness quickly and limitlessly. It takes commitment, focus, and dedication. No one who has ever walked the road will say it is easy. But in forgiveness, one exchanges anger, bitterness, hatred, depression and perhaps health problems, for joy, peace, and freedom – not a bad trade by any standard.” -Shoultz

5. Unforgiveness keeps us from a healthy relationship with ourselves.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.” Psalm 51:10-12 (NIV)

“As long as you don't forgive, who and whatever it is will occupy rent-free space in your mind.”

Isabelle Holland

C. Forgiveness Still Involves Boundaries.

“Forgiveness is not a mere good feeling toward someone, although in certain circumstances, depending on the nature of the violation, good feelings may attend forgiveness. But forgiveness itself is the principle of love acted out toward a violator in the form of willing what is best for them, turning them over to God, and holding them accountable for what they have done in the form of tangible actions.” Ty Gibson

1. Forgiveness does not always mean trust has to be rebuilt.
2. Forgiveness does not always mean a social contract must be re-established.
3. “Forgiveness is the act of the mind in giving a person over to God and wanting what is best for them, as opposed to harboring vindictive hatred for them and wanting them to suffer and be eternally barred from salvation.” Ty Gibson, *lightbearers.org*

Bottom Line:

“A person who cannot forgive has forgotten how much God has forgiven them.”

3am Thoughts

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

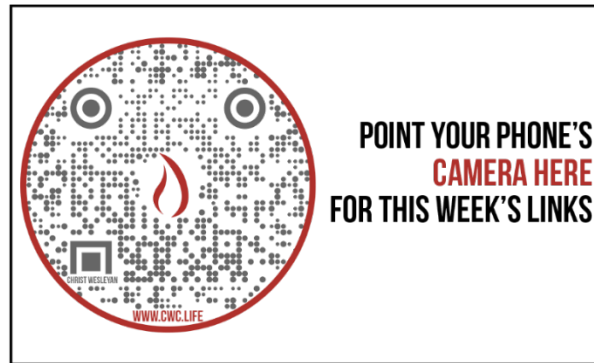
Text: “Jesus” to 570-273-0088

Next Sunday: “by Design”

Week 5: The Doors

Milton Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach

Sunbury Campus: Pastor Billy Robel



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 82.8% of goal

Giving year to date: 89.3% of goal

Attendance Last Weekend: 1,830

Salvations to date: 11 | Baptisms to date: 18

Upcoming Happenings:

TODAY! – FREEDOM FEST!

Outdoor Baptism Service 3p

Kids Inflatables, Tailgating, & Activities at 4.

Fireworks at dusk.

Want to volunteer for Freedom Fest?

Go to: cwclife.churchcenter.com

August 11 – Get Out Sunday!

We will meet outdoors in our local communities!

We will worship and hear the Word together.

We will go out and pray for our schools, teachers, and students and administrations.

An Unforgiveness Quiz

1. Does remembering a particular hurtful event trigger a strong emotional reaction?

If thinking about a hurtful situation causes strong negative emotions the hurt is still alive.

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled. Hebrews 12:15 (NAS)

2. Does the stress of remembering hurtful events trigger physical reactions or discomfort?

If remembering hurtful situations results in physical symptoms, then unforgiven issues most likely remain lodged in the heart and spirit.

3. Does the painful experience bring to mind anything for which God can be praised?

Many of us have difficulty admitting we sometimes have anger toward God. We make mistakes or we suffer because of the sins others inflict upon us, and then we hold God responsible.

4. Can the offending party be thought of with a sincere wish that good things will happen in his or her life?

Forgiveness restores love and promotes reconciliation. The Apostle Paul taught the bickering Corinthian church members:

“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 (NIV)

5. Do you have a complete sense that forgiveness really has been accomplished?

Are you being honest with yourself about how you really feel? Is forgiveness coming from your heart, or are you just going through the motions without real forgiveness?

6. Is forgiveness producing positive results?

When a lifestyle of forgiveness is effectively achieved, it will produce wonderful fruits in the way we feel about ourselves and in the quality of relationships we are able to have with others.

Notetakers are History Makers