

Family Matters

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Family matters is an newsletter designed with you in mind. Everyday we gather information about the real issues that people face. We want to address these issues head on with positive, encouraging information to equip you for "doing life."

We would appreciate your input or leave feedback. You can visit our web site at www.valleyvictorychurch.com and send us an e-mail or take our online survey. We'd love to hear from you.

In this issue we continue deal with forgiveness and mercy. Every day the opportunity for offense and hurt is real. What do we do to keep that hurt from paralyzing us? What should we do with all the stirred up emotions that come when we feel wronged or slighted? Well let's dive in and look for some answers.

Graciously forgiven,

Pastor Dave Beaulieu

Unforgiveness - Self Inflicted Hindrance

If you were holding a baby and it unexpectedly threw up on your new silk outfit, would you consider this an intentional act and forever be upset at the infant? Or should you take responsibility for playing too rowdily with the baby after a meal, or not being proactive by protecting your garment with a cloth. Imagine forever blaming the baby for ruining your suit and refusing to love it for the rest of its life because of your anger. Pretty silly, huh? Imagine the baby hating you for the rest of your life and calling you a child abuser because you got upset and yelled at him because of his unintentional mishap. This seems pretty silly, doesn't it? But unfortunately there are many who don't see the destruction of their unforgiveness.

When we choose to hold a grudge or offer no mercy and forgiveness, families are divided, friends are forsaken and we lose one of the most important things we have in life, meaningful relationships.

Two little boys had quarreled. But the next morning Johnny took his cap and headed for Bobby's house again. Surprised, an older member of the family said teasingly, "What! Going to play with him again? I thought you quarreled only last evening and were never going to have anything more to do with each other. Funny memory you have."

Johnny looked a little sheepish, dug his toe into the carpet for a moment, then flashed a satisfied smile as he hurried away. "Oh! Bobby and me's good forgetters!"

If we could become better forgetters, we might just get beyond yesterday's offense and pain and look forward to actually being with people we've avoided.

Most people who hurt us do it unintentionally. They aren't aware of how we feel (which probably means we've done the same).

R.T. Kendall writes: "When I was minister at Westminster Chapel ... the people who betrayed me didn't think they'd done one thing wrong. You could've hooked them up to a lie detector and they'd have passed with flying colors. My friend Josif Tson, whom the Communist government of Romania imprisoned and beat for his faith, came to me and said, 'Unless you totally forgive them you'll be in chains.' I never went and told them I forgave them (this would've insulted them). It happened in my heart. Once you forgive in your heart it ceases to be an issue whether they repent or not. The blessing I got from this was incalculable."

When Jesus told His disciples, "Love each other... as I ... loved you" (John 13:34 CEV), He knew Peter would deny Him.

When He said, "I go to prepare a place for you" (Jn 14:2), He knew He was addressing men who'd forsake Him. And when He appeared to them after the resurrection He didn't say, "Why'd you do it?" No. He said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:21 NIV), like it never happened.

Why forgive those who don't ask? Because God's forgiven us for stuff that's just as bad, or worse! Give everyone else that latitude and you'll go a long way to better health and success. Failing to forgive someone places a roadblock in your path. It becomes a stone in your shoe. It affects you more than it does them. You're losing sleep and they are enjoying their dreams. Jesus said, "If you have anything against someone, forgive - only then will your heavenly Father .. wipe your slate clean."

You'll know you've succeeded once you:

- (a) stop rehearsing your grievances to others;
- (b) quit trying to get even;
- (c) can honestly ask God to bless them.

Do yourself a favor... FORGIVE!

Valley Victory Church is part of the growing family of Victory Churches. You can find out more about Valley Victory church at www.valleyvictorychurch.com. You can also find out more about Victory Churches International at www.victoryint.org

