

# ***The Curse of Unforgiveness***

*Freeing Others and Yourself*

From The Book: 10 Curses That Block the Blessing

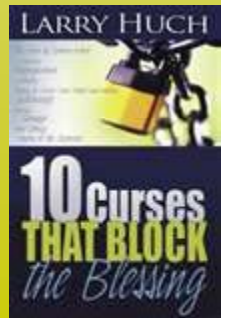
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***So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: Numbers 14:28***

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All Scriptural references are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise noted.



# Introduction



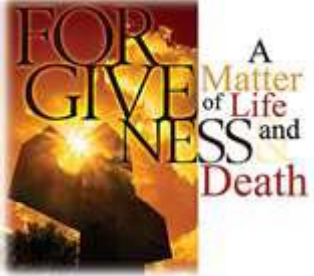
- It is difficult for most people to confront someone else regarding an offense, but sometimes confrontation is necessary. Ignoring confrontation is often what causes bad feelings to turn inward and fester into something much worse. Those ugly feelings can sit in the pit of a person's stomach, churning away until he becomes so upset that he can hardly see straight.
- Usually it's better to kindly say what you feel and get over it than to let those raw emotions turn into an ugly monster, just waiting to crawl out at an opportune moment and attack its victim.
- Confrontation may be uncomfortable, but it's a lot less painful than having to apologize later for erupting in a fit of flesh like a volcano that spews destructive lava all over its surroundings.

# Introduction

- Luke 17:3 says, ***Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. (KJV)***
- The word “trespass” in the Greek means “*hamartano*,” which means *to violate a rule; to cross a line; to commit a grievance; or to miss the mark.*
- The word “rebuke” in the Greek word “*epitimaō*,” which means *to speak frankly, honestly, and politely as you tell a person how you feel that he has wronged you.*
- The issue of honesty is a big one in the Body of Christ. Many believers are dishonest about what they really think and feel.

# Introduction

- Inside church folk seethe with anger toward someone about a perceived offense. Yet on the outside, they smile and pretend as if everything is all right. This dishonesty divides believers and keeps God power from freely flowing between members of the Body of Christ.
- Believers put themselves on dangerous territory when they harbor hidden disagreements or secret petty grievances against other people, yet go around smiling and acting as if everything is all right. They're not just being dishonest—they're engaging in outright lying and deception!
- When you refuse to confront an offense, you are just as wrong as the one who violated your rights and stepped over the line. That means if you are going to be mature in your relationships, you must learn how to confront others when you feel they have wronged you. It may be difficult to do that, but it's a lot less painful and leaves less scars than does a soul that is filled with bitterness and resentment.



# Un-forgiveness

- What is unforgiveness? The act of not showing mercy according to Dictionary.com.
- I want to say that unforgiveness is a selfish intentional poison that destroys the lives of many.
- Poison (**negative influence**): something that exercises a powerful destructive or corrupting force, especially in an insidious (dangerous, subtle) way.
- In other words unforgiveness is so powerful that it not only destroys the person performing the sin but those around them.

# What Happens?



- What does unforgiveness do?
  - Show we don't really love Jesus
    - John 15:12-***My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.***
  - Prevents God from forgiving our sins
    - Matthew 6:15--***But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.***
  - Opens us up to the tormentors (the devil)
    - Matthew 18:34-35--***In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."***

# What Happens?

- What does unforgiveness do?
  - Can block God from answering our prayers



- Mark 11:24,25--***Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.***
- Can defile a person
  - Hebrews 12:15--***See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.***



# What Happens?

- What does unforgiveness do?
  - Can keep a person out of heaven
    - Matthew 7:12, 21--***So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.***
  - Can give Satan an advantage
    - 2 Corinthians 2:10,11---***If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven-if there was anything to forgive-I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.***

# What Happens?



- What does unforgiveness do?
  - Can prevent us from being fruitful spiritually
    - John 15:5--"***I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.***"
  - Can open us up to curses
    - Deuteronomy 27:26--"***Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out. Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"***"
    - Deuteronomy 28:28—Mental and emotional problems
    - Deuteronomy 25:35,60,61---Physical problems
    - Deuteronomy 28:17, 38,43---Financial problems
    - Exodus 20:5---Handed down to future generations
  - Water hose analogy

# Weapon of The Enemy



- Unforgiveness is one of Satan's devices, an instrument, a weapon, a plot, a scheme, a tool. Often times when we think of how the enemy deceives us we think of...stealing, lying, drinking, cursing, doping, robbing a bank, or killing somebody.
- We don't see the sin in strife, bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness. We live in a society that believes in fostering, festering, stirring up strife, bitterness, and unforgiveness.
- There are a multitude of blessings waiting for us to receive, to own by faith...if we could release the unforgiveness we hold in our hearts for others, including God.



# Rid Yourself

- Ephesians 4:31-32 says, ***“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.”***
- You really don’t have a choice to forgive...God was willing to forgive us. There are two times that God has forgiven us:
  1. Before we repented and acknowledged Christ  
***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*** (Romans 5:8)
  2. After we repented and accepted Christ  
***My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*** (I John 2:1)



# How Often Do I Forgive?

- Matthew 18:21-22  
***Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.***
- Jesus also knew that 490 was the number of Spiritual perfection.
  - 7 is God's perfect number
  - Ten is the number of completion
  - $7 \times 7 \times 10 = \text{Spiritual perfection}$
- When we come into Spiritual perfection, we will not hold grudges, we will not have hard feelings toward others, and we will be free to enter God's perfect peace because our minds will be stayed on Him. (Is 26:3)

# Love...



- God gave us two commandments that all other commandments are centered around:
  - ***Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' "*** Matthew 22:37
  - ***And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*** Matthew 22:39
- What makes us think we have the right to hold grudges and harbor resentment? What makes us so perfect and sinless? You have an obligation based on the sacrifice God has made for you...Jesus Christ.

# Let it Go!

- Speak out of your mouth, through faith, that you choose to forgive and let go. When you get sick and tired of being sick and tired it shall be done!
- When you think about that person or see that person, remind yourself you have chosen to forgive.
- By the way, the prayers and speaking positive are not for the person who has hurt you, but it is to free you from them!
- Anything that has control over your mind, body, and heart is a god. When you allow yourself to be overtaken with unforgiveness then you allow that sin to become your god.



# Forgiveness

- A wise man once wrote:  
*“Forgiveness is the key to the doorway of healing and freedom. Forgiveness builds a sturdy bridge over which repentance and reconciliation can pass. To forgive is to set a prisoner free---and you will discover the prisoner was you.”*
- You can only hide things for so long before they began to show through the cracks. Whether you admit where you are or not sooner or later it will be revealed.
- The question becomes how do we forgive? We must make a choice to be more intentional about forgiving and forgetting.



# Forgiveness

- The word “forgive” is the Greek word “*aphiemi*.”
- *It means to set free; to let go; to release; to discharge; or to liberate completely. A modern paraphrase of this Greek word would simply be to let it go!*
- ***As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Ps 103:12)***
- Just as God has removed your sin as far as the east is from the west, you must now decide that this person is freed in regard to that past offense. Once you forgive, him you cannot drag up the offense again and again. You have released and liberated him/her completely from that sin. Therefore, you never have the right or privilege to pull out that offense later and use it against him/her. **It is GONE!!!**



# Steps to Forgiveness

- **Don't confront anyone until you have first made it a matter of prayer.** Prayer resolves a lot of problems by itself.
- **Don't confront anyone with a judgmental attitude.** We've all made mistakes---and that includes you! So assume that your offender would not deliberately hurt or offend you. Take a positive position about the other person.
- **Remember that you, too, have been offensive in the past.** Never forget that you have probably offended people in the past. You did not intend to do it.



*But my God shall  
supply all your need  
according to his riches  
in glory by Christ  
Jesus.*

Phil 4:19

# Steps to Forgiveness

- Is there someone you need to forgive?
  - **Decide to forgive.** You will never forgive if you wait until you feel like it. I am not telling you it does not hurt, but I am saying we are forgiven daily when we ask God.
  - **Depend on the Holy Spirit.** You can not do this alone! Stop trying to be Superman and Wonder woman. God has never failed you yet. Trust Him.
  - **Obey the Word.** Obedience is better than sacrifice.
    - Pray
    - Bless and do not curse



***I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me!***

Phil 4:13

# Forgive Yourself

- There is another piece we need to look besides us forgiving someone and someone forgiving us.
- We need to also forgive ourselves for our past sins and hurts that we have caused someone. Once you have done what the Word of God commands stop focusing on the past and move forward.
- ***Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, (Phil 3:13)***





# Fight The Right Enemy!



- Finally, lets go back and address the real enemy.
- Ephesians 6:12--***For our struggle is **not** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***
- Stop looking at the physical and realize that this battle is not physical but it is spiritual. The time has come for us to break all the curses we allow the enemy to hold over our lives and realize: ***For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete. (2 Cor 10:3-5)***