

FREEDOM
PART 5 ~ FORGIVENESS
PASTOR TOM GARRETT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.” Ephesians 1:7 NLT

Reasons We May Struggle to Forgive:

1. We have the **WRONG IDEA** of forgiveness.
 - Forgiveness is not **MINIMIZING** the offense.
 - Forgiveness is not **“FORGETTING”** what happened.
 - Forgiveness is not the same as **RECONCILIATION**

2. We don't think **IT'S FAIR.**
 - Matthew 18:21-35
 - We weren't forgiven to just **RECEIVE** forgiveness; we were forgiven to _____ **“BECOME”** forgiveness to others.

3. We don't think **WE CAN DO IT.**
 - II Corinthians 12:9

Living an Unoffended Life (Avoiding the Unforgiveness Trap):

1. Understand that forgiveness is a **SPIRITUAL** transaction, not an **EMOTIONAL** transaction.
 - John 20:19-23 [NLT]

2. **REMEMBER** how much God has forgiven you.
 - Matthew 18:32-33 [NLT]

3. Realize that offense is the **BAIT** that satan uses to defeat you.
 - I Peter 5:8 [NIV]

Forgiveness in Action

1. **PRAY** for people who have offended you.

- Matthew 5:43-44 [NLT]
- Mark 11:25

2. **BLESS** people who have offended you.

- Luke 6:27-28 [NLT]

3. **OVERCOME** evil with good.

- Romans 12:17-21[NLT]

