

1 **Codependence Workshop**

Chapter 8: Receiving the Gift of Forgiveness

2 **Grace Replacement**

- Everything in our lives that is revealed with unhealthy roots has the opportunity to be redeemer. EVERYTHING
- Seeing brokenness simply lifts the veils away so that we can deal with those same issues through God's remedy
- We can live pretending that we are free, but in truth, we are still living outside the presence of grace
- Grace is the great exchange

3 **How Jesus Forgave**

- Jesus endured the shameful and horrible reality of the human heart. He was offended in ways that are inconceivable.
- His heart on earth wasn't to punish or destroy "bad people", but to provide a bridge that could bring them back. He came to save the very people who killed Him.
- Jesus knew what people apart from His remedy were capable of becoming, thus their brokenness was no surprise.
- Jesus came expecting NOTHING – He had one mission and mission alone- to introduce to the world the meaning of grace.

4 **How Jesus Forgave**

- What Jesus understood is something we struggle with.
- He knew that all evil behaviors were generated by the effects of Satan, and that the only way to overcome the horrible reality of the sinful human heart was to conquer it through love and forgiveness.
- Love and forgiveness were in fact the weapons used by God to disengage the power of Satan. By offering this love to people, Jesus Christ took on the punishment that the sinful act itself deserved.
- Jesus didn't make people His enemies - He had only one true Enemy - Satan and his army of demons.

5 **The Power of Forgiveness**

- Since God provided us a redemptive pathway back to Him, He asks that we receive it and live under it!
- He also calls us to forgive others, understanding that people who commit acts of violations are in need of redemption too.
- When we gain access into the real power behind forgiveness, we discover it is the doorway to a new beginning, offering the ability to be set free from each and every sin issue.
- Forgiveness gives us the ability to be emotionally and spiritually healed.

6 **Barriers to Receiving Forgiveness**

1. We are angry at God and blame Him for allowing things in onto our lives
2. We believe we don't need forgiveness since we aren't that bad or it's "everyone else's fault"
3. We are unable to receive forgiveness for our own wrongdoings

7 **Anger at God**

- We must begin to acknowledge the emotion exists and get honest with painful root that drives it

- We won't necessarily to get rid of our anger initially, but just getting honest about it is a huge step
- God can handle it! He just wants to help us get in touch better with our emotions
- Because all anger at God is a misunderstanding of His character, we can begin to pray for clarity, understanding and repentance

8 **When We Don't Feel We Can Receive Forgiveness**

- God's forgiveness is a free gift based on His grace (Eph 2:8-9). Receiving that gift with nothing attached goes directly against our codependence.
- We are faced with a choice when we feel unworthy of forgiveness. Either the blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient for us, or it's not.
- How foolish that we could reject a gift that God already bought for us, and one that took such precious resources to purchase, simply because we aren't worthy. The truth is, WE AREN'T WORTHY - but the BLOOD OF JESUS IS!

9 **Rejecting Grace**

- Rejecting grace is actually an act of independence, thus it is pride.
- When we think it's not applicable to our own lives, we weaken the power of grace and strengthen our sin
- There is nothing "humble" or "sacrificial" about refusing to accept forgiveness. When we reject forgiveness we lose and Satan wins.

10 **Receiving Forgiveness**

- Confess – Admit that we've sinned – specifically state those areas where we struggled.
- Repent – Being willing to make necessary changes. This change should reflect a condition in our heart, not a behavioral change
- Receive – I'm forgiven – that's it. Case closed. Judge has ruled in my favor – I've been released
- Renounce – Speak against the spirit that drove that act and refuse it continually in the name of Jesus
- We must learn to access the throne of grace boldly – focusing more on Jesus on His solution – less on our sin and unworthiness

11 **Believing We Don't Need Forgiveness**

Self-righteousness

- Feeling we are "righteous" by the things we do and check-list we perform
- Believing our acts of "morality" make up for anything immoral or wrong in our lives
- Focusing on how "sinful" other people are, while minimizing our own part – if we are focused on the other person's character defects and sin all the time, it's almost guaranteed we are self righteous
- Standing on anything but the blood of Jesus Christ to deal with our sin issue

12 **False Guilt**

- Owning things that don't belong to us
- Feeling responsible for the sins/behaviors of others
- When we accept false guilt we can also feel the need to constantly "vindicate" ourselves. Over time, we can develop an extreme sensitivity to the way we perceive people to be "judging" us.
- We can develop an overly protective personality – constantly feeling defensive to everyone around us

13 **Evidence of Forgiveness**

How do you know if you've truly received God's forgiveness?

- You will thank Him. You will truly understand that without His forgiveness you would be hopelessly lost.
- You will desire to move closer to Him in a relationship, not run from Him. The shame of our sin made us hide from God, forgiveness draws us close to Him.
- You will know in your heart that you are completely accepted. You will no longer feel as though He is in any way rejecting you.
- If you have not gotten there yet, do not be discouraged, but rather diligently seek Him through faith. God's entire redemptive purposes in your life rest in your ability to receive His forgiveness.
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