

YOUR NEXT STEP TO FREEDOM THROUGH FORGIVENESS...

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*  
Galatians 5:1

Who have you offended?                      Who has offended you?

<i>Listen to God</i>	
<i>Observe/Obey Your Responsibility</i>	
<i>Validate your Wrongs</i>	
<i>Expect The Consequences</i>	
<i>Unite Under Christ</i>	

**A Sample Prayer:** Dear Jesus, I choose to forgive (Name of person/people) for (List, what they did) because it made me feel (Share the pain). I choose not to hold onto my resentment because it will make me a prisoner. I give up my right to seek revenge and I ask you to heal my damaged emotions. Thank You for setting me free from the slavery of bitterness. I ask you to bless them that hurt me. In Jesus name I pray, Amen!

**CONCLUSION:**

What step(s) will you take to make your relationships work?

**MAKING RELATIONSHIPS WORK**

**Working Through Forgiveness**  
**Pastor Gary Moritz**

**INTRODUCTION**

**A.** Let’s face it, no one likes being involved in a messy relationship – the emotional scarring, the insults, the mind games, the hurts; it all starts to get to you after a while.

*“3 Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me.  
4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.  
5 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.  
6 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.  
7 Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness.  
Selah.”*  
Psalm 55:3-7

**B.** God shows us the steps to making relationships work. In this series, you will learn four Biblical steps to maintaining love from the book of Philemon.

- February 13            Messy Love
- February 20           Working Through Communication
- February 27           Working Through Conflict
- TODAY                Working Through Forgiveness
- March 13              Working Through Trust

The goal of this series is to show you how to make your relationships work.

**C. TEXT:** Philemon 1-25 (Pew Bible/Page 220/New Testament)

Philemon has been called a “Postcard With A Punch”. Though it contains only 25 verses, the contents of these verses are quite powerful and emphasize maintaining love. Six times the word

“love” (vs 5, 7 & 9) or “beloved” (vs 1, 2 & 16) is used here. It was written by Paul to Philemon about Onesimus.

### HOW TO WORK THROUGH FORGIVENESS

Rule #3 Seek restoration, not revenge.

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

Ephesians 4:32

#### I. FORGIVENESS IS A \_\_\_\_\_ THING. (v15)

*“I To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

*8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1,8

*“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.”*

Philippians 1:20

Forgiveness is showing others you're like Christ.

#### II. FORGIVENESS IS A \_\_\_\_\_ THING (v16)

*“18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

*19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”*

II Corinthians 5:18-19

#### The Life Change In Onesimus

TIME	Physically	Spiritually	Eternally
Before Christ	Philemon's Slave	Prisoner of Sin	Hell's Slave
After Christ	Philemon's Slave	Freed in Christ	Heaven's Servant

Forgiveness is not a maybe, it's a must.

#### III. FORGIVENESS IS A \_\_\_\_\_ THING (v17)

*“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”*

Matthew 6:10

*“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*

Colossians 3:13

*“We don't heal in order to forgive, but we forgive in order to heal”*

– Neal Anderson,

Steps to Freedom in Christ, p11

Forgiveness is not forgetting, but forbearing.

#### IV. FORGIVENESS IS A \_\_\_\_\_ THING (vs 18-19)

*“4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted*

*5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”*

Isaiah 53:4-7

Forgiveness is telling Jesus thank you.