

FORGIVENESS IS ALWAYS RIGHT

The Test of Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:31-32

Shawn Farrell 09.08.19

Ephesians 4:32 *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

1. The struggle is _____ v31

_____ a cynical and resentful spirit which refuses reconciliation

James 3:14 *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.*

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

_____ an outburst of uncontrolled passion and frustration

_____ a steady internal festering or seething of anger

James 1:19-20 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. **Proverbs 14:17** A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of evil devices is hated.

Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.

_____ a loud, verbal outcry that reveals a loss of self-control

_____ to defame, use abusive speech, or revile

Proverbs 18:8 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

_____ a general term for wickedness, evil, or trouble

2. The resolution is _____ v32

_____ to show a sweet, pleasant, and gracious disposition

Titus 3:4-5 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Tit 3:4-5

_____ affectionate and compassionate, to feel empathy

Luke 15:20 So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **Matthew 9:36** Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

_____ to show favor, acting in grace towards another

Luke 17:3-4 Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him.

2 Pathways to forgiveness:

_____ 1 Peter 4:7 Love covers a multitude of sins.

_____ Matthew 18:15 If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private....

3. The motivation is _____ v32

Matthew 18:21ff

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 7:2 For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.