

STRENGTH *in* WEAKNESS

The Freedom of Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 (ESV)

⁵ Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. ⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

The **question**: How do we respond when someone has genuinely hurt us?

The **context**:

5 lessons on forgiveness:

Offenses that require forgiveness rarely (if ever) affect people in _____.

Improperly handled, offenses lead to _____ which has a pervasive effect on relationships, families, and churches.

The ultimate aim of forgiveness is _____ and _____ . But that is not always possible.

What do I do about those who don't repent?

Forgiveness is not based on _____. It is a _____ of our _____. (That makes it a _____.)

Will I be obedient "in everything"?

Is my disobedience in this area crippling me spiritually?

Forgiveness has one ultimate cause: _____.

A person who cannot forgive has forgotten how great a debt God has forgiven them.

Few tools in the arsenal of Satan are more effective against us than _____.

Paul says, "... we are not ignorant of his designs." But is that true of me?

How am I taking Satan's bait?

Some ways I can become **less easily offendable**:

Stop acting _____ when people _____.

Stop assuming _____ when you don't know people's _____.

Stop trying to _____.

Stop _____ and _____ every offense.

Work hard at _____.

(You'll need lots of God's help for this!)

Take a hard look at self to determine _____ I am responding like I am.

Start working now to becoming a _____ Christian who refuses to be a _____ of Satan's strategies.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

My response: