



"The Christian Life" Series, Message 6 – September 20, 2009 – Pastor Will Mackey

Responding to Personal Offenses! (Part 2) (Philemon)

A 5 Step Guide to Help Us Respond With a Holy Attitude:

Last Week:

1. When tempted to have an unforgiving attitude, make yourself accountable to other Christians. (1, 5)
2. When tempted to have an unforgiving attitude, reflect upon the times when God worked through you to help others. (5, 7)

Today's Study:

3. **When tempted to have an unforgiving attitude, reflect upon what God could do in the offender's life if you were to extend a Christ-like attitude.**
This enables us to look at God's heart for the offender.

"Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord." (15-16)

4. **When tempted to have an unforgiving attitude, reflect upon the times when others have extended grace and mercy to you.** In the matter of giving and receiving mercy from others...we find ourselves both owed and owing.

"If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self." (19)

5. **When tempted to have an unforgiving attitude, consider the example you could set for all who are aware of the situation.** Our choices impact the lives and faith others.

*"I do wish brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask... Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."
(20-21, 23-25)*