

WELCOME

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

We are not here to tell you what to wear, eat, listen to, vote for, or even believe. These are things you must determine for yourself if you want to have real faith. We are here to give you truth, facts, tools and point out that every choice, every belief, and every action you make is tied to an outcome in your life. You can't do life without developing a strong foundation and becoming a person of substance. This is your journey, your discovery, and you will reap the benefit of the work you do.

FHNew - Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at [208-853-0011](tel:208-853-0011) and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church. Or for more information, stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium**.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the seat back in front of you. Place your prayer request in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary. You can also send a prayer request using this form: [Prayer Request - Foothills Church](#). The staff and volunteers pray over these weekly.

FHBaptism - One important step in your faith journey is being baptized. To learn more about baptism, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at [208-853-0011](tel:208-853-0011) and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

ONGOING/UPCOMING

- MomCo - [Foothills MomCo - Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- Small Groups - [Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- Bible Recap: Read through the Bible in a Year ([Linda Kraft - The Bible Recap - Foothills Church](#)) Join any time . . .
- Vacation Bible School – June 23-26
 - [Volunteer Registration](#)
 - [Child Registration](#)

INTRODUCTION: Interim Pastor Trent Renner**FIGHTING WITH FAMILY #2 - MAY THE 4TH (FORCE) BE WITH YOU” FORGIVENESS**

Do you have feelings of anger, resentment, or hatred toward someone who has hurt you? Do these feelings linger or torment you?

Fighting with Family is only functional if you and I truly learn to forgive each other and thus live in true freedom.

“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

Forgiveness is NOT simply trying to forget

- It is not letting time pass after an offense happens
- It is not disregarding the wrong another person has done to you
- It is not pretending that an offense did not matter

This is not true forgiveness and you will not experience freedom.

The hurts you have experienced from others may be the result of a one-time offense or repeated wrongs. The person who hurt you might not even be aware of the pain they caused. Regardless of how the offense occurred or who was responsible, *if you don’t forgive, you will never be truly free. While your offender was in the wrong, it is you who ends up trapped.*

The Prison of Unforgiveness

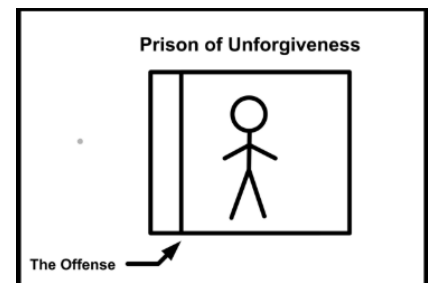
Is there someone who has offended you that you have not forgiven? Who is it?

BAR #1 — THE OFFENSE

The Prison of unforgiveness has four bars.

The first bar of the prison is **THE OFFENSE**. This is the wrong the person did to you.

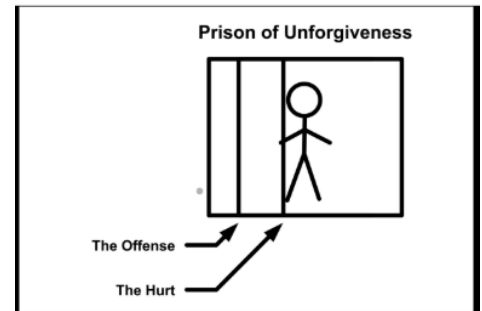
- What was the offense the person committed?



BAR #2 — THE HURT

The 2nd bar of the prison is THE HURT. This is how you felt emotionally as a result of the offense. You may have felt betrayed, embarrassed, rejected, belittled, unimportant, depressed, violated, angry, or devastated.

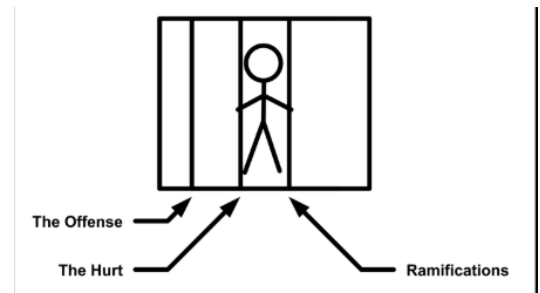
- **How do you feel about the offense? What are your emotions?**



BAR #3 — THE RAMIFICATIONS

The 3rd bar to the prison is The Ramifications of the offense. This is how the offense affected your life afterwards.

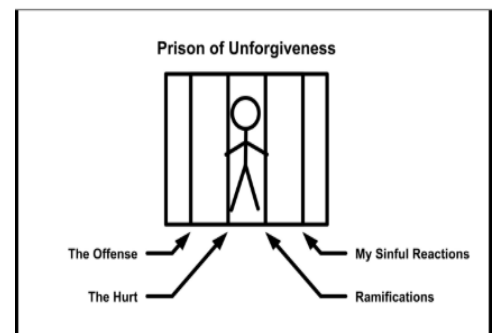
- The offense is like a rock thrown into a pond; the hurt and ramifications are the ripples into other areas of your life. These RAMIFICATIONS...relationship with God, mind, health, relationships, finances, marriage, kids
- Example: If someone stole from you, that would be an offense. The hurt may be feelings of being cheated/betrayed. The ramifications may include not having enough money to pay bills and having to take a 2nd job. The fact that you have to work a 2nd job takes time away from your family and causes problems in your marriage. All these RIPPLES happen because someone stole from you.
 - **What are the ramifications of the offense you listed? The ripples of that offense grow larger with time.**



BAR #4 — MY SINFUL REACTIONS

These are the wrong choices you made as a result of the offense.

- You were wronged but did you react in a sinful manner? This would include gossip, slander, rejecting, and judging your offender. It could also include wrong choices you made long after the offense.
- Example: Perhaps you were sexually abused as a child. The abuse was the sin of your offender, but you may have gone on to make sinful choices yourself. These sinful reactions might include sexual promiscuity, never trusting anyone, or substance abuse.
 - **What were your sinful reactions as a result of you being offended and hurt?**



You may have built your prison of unforgiveness to protect yourself, but the bars keep you bound to your offender.

QUESTION: How do you forgive an offense when you know someone must pay?

JESUS'S payment for ALL sin

God doesn't forgive sin by pretending it didn't happen or ignoring it. He sent Jesus to pay for sin. God made the forgiveness of sin possible through the blood of Jesus. God requires the shedding of blood for ANY SIN or offense to be forgiven.

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Hebrews 9:22 (NLT)

Jesus became the complete payment for sin. Blood was shed only once but was powerful enough to cover every sin throughout all the ages.

"John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the WORLD.'" John 1:29 (NLT)

QUESTION: Does the blood of Jesus take away your sins? Is the blood of Jesus good enough to cover the sins of the person who offended you?

"All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the sins of us all." Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

God accepted Jesus's blood as payment for all sins.

If all offenses were paid for by what Jesus did on the cross, His blood is potent enough to cover your offender's sin against you. Your offender may still need to receive God's forgiveness or be legally responsible for what was done, but as far as you are concerned, he/she is no longer guilty when you forgive.

Jesus's Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor -- Matthew 18

"The king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'you evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison until he had paid every penny. 'That's what the Heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters in your heart.'" Matthew 18:32-35 (NLT)

Jesus's parable of the unforgiving servant makes the point that God's children are commanded to forgive because God has forgiven them

- True forgiveness is choosing to accept the blood of Jesus as the FULL PAYMENT for what your offender did
- Choosing to forgive is an act of will/discipline
- Forgiveness is never based on your feelings

QUESTION: What is keeping you from forgiving your offender?

Can God turn what has happened to you into good?

The Bible gives the account of Joseph in Genesis 37. He was sold into slavery by his brothers. They threw him in a pit to die, but then chose to sell him. Joseph experienced tremendous hurt, but he forgave his brothers. When he was eventually reunited with them, he treated them kindly . . .

“As far as I’m concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil.” **Genesis 50:20**

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.” **Romans 8:28**

You may be trying to protect yourself or get revenge by choosing not to forgive. But, you become the one in bondage, not your offender. You become the person in the wrong when you do not forgive someone who has offended you.

“Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” **Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)**

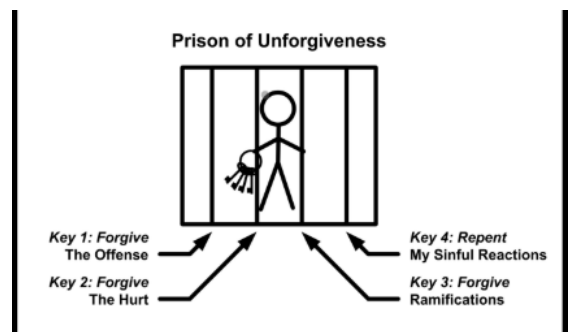
God wants to heal your hurts and set you free from bondage.

KEYS TO FORGIVENESS

KEY 1 — FORGIVE THE OFFENSE

You choose to forgive the person for the wrong they did to you. Remember you are accepting the blood of Jesus as full payment for what they did. You are choosing to no longer hold them guilty for the offense.

PRAY: “Jesus, I choose to forgive (name of offender) for what they did to me (be specific). I believe, Jesus, that your blood covers their sin.”



KEY 2 — FORGIVE THE HURT

Take the time to forgive all the hurt feelings you have experienced.

PRAY: “I choose to forgive them for the feelings that I experienced because of the offense” (be specific)

KEY 3 — FORGIVE THE RAMIFICATIONS

You choose to forgive the offender for how the offense affected all other areas of your life.

PRAY: “I choose to forgive them for all the ramifications (list them) caused by the offense.”

KEY 4 — REPENT OF MY SINFUL REACTIONS

Write out your sinful reactions and repent of each.

PRAY: “Lord, I acknowledge that I have sinned too. I confess my sinful reactions (be specific). Thank you that the blood of Jesus covers my sins and that I am forgiven.”

QUESTION: Are you ready to be free from the Prison of Unforgiveness?

Make A HABIT of FORGIVING

You may need to go through this process many times if you are in a relationship where there is regular hurt or offenses.

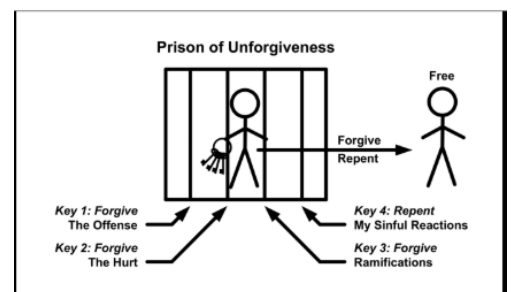
Peter asked JESUS how many times...

“Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times? Jesus replied, No, not seven times but seventy times seven!” **Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)**

FREEDOM!

After you have chosen to forgive, you are **FREE** from the Prison of Unforgiveness.

“Jesus has purchased our freedom with His blood and has forgiven all our sins.” **Colossians 1:14 (NLT)**



Jesus's blood frees you from the punishment of your sins. Jesus's blood is also the basis for forgiving others, which frees you from your Prison. If you have hurt others...

- Seek Forgiveness
- Admit: "I was wrong. I am sorry." I ask your forgiveness.

"So, if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God." **Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT)**

"Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible." **Romans 12:18 (NLT)**

When it comes to Fighting with Family and creating habits that serve the Lord and serve our Family...

- The greatest force of all is **LOVE**
- The greatest way to show that force is... **FORGIVENESS**

May the 4th (Force) be with you!