

Repairing Ruptured Relationships.

SUMMARY

It's one thing to say, "I'm Sorry." It's another to forgive. As men, we often hold on to things in our past, saying "I'm not going to ever forget what that so-and-so did to me." But is that helpful and valuable? Is it even Christian to do that? Somebody once said forgiveness doesn't set the offender free...it sets the offended free. And it can restore a relationship. Today we're going to talk about how you can repair any ruptured relationships in your life so that you can live as Christ REALLY wants you to live — in family and in business.

SCRIPTURES

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

— *Matthew 6:14, 15*

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

— *Ephesians 4:31, 32*

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

— *Colossians 3:13*

QUESTIONS FOR TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. Why is it that biblical forgiveness is so often talked about, but so hard to practice?
2. Did you learn any fresh insight into what biblical forgiveness is NOT? Have you ever substituted one of the four things biblical forgiveness is NOT, for true forgiveness? Did it accomplish anything lasting?
3. When you stop and give focused thought to what God has forgiven in you, how does it make you feel?
What do you desire to express to God for His forgiveness of you...over, and over again?
4. Do you ever find yourself like the forgiven servant in Matthew 18 when it comes to forgiving others who have wounded, hurt, blindsided or betrayed you? What does this powerful story significantly say to you about forgiveness?
5. Why, when forgiveness has been given, is reconciliation and the rebuilding of trust so difficult?

Helpful Further Reading (all available through Amazon)

FORGIVENESS	by Dr. Charles Stanley
WHEN FORGIVENESS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE	by Dr. Robert Jeffress
TOTAL FORGIVENESS	by Dr. R.T. Kendall

A Few Notes about Dr. Bob Reccord

Bob was formerly a business executive who provided services to automotive, aircraft and computer industries. He became very involved in Promise Keepers and has spoken to over 300,000 men in Promise Keepers, business settings, churches and conferences. Bob enjoys life coaching, and has written 8 books. In his spare time, Bob is an avid hunter (with experience hunting on 3 continents), golfer and reader. Bob and his wife, Cheryl, have 3 grown kids and 7 grandkids! You can reach him at Bob@bobreccord.com and www.totallifeimpact.com