



FORGIVENESS

Tuesday, March 21 | Romans 6:11-13

He was a sharp guy, intelligent, at first meeting very likeable. I enjoyed and respected him in the early days of our relationship but over time that respect dwindled. He would sometimes blame others for his issues, publically criticize family and friends and shared confidential information, including things I had disclosed. I invited him to my office for a healthy clear the air conversation and hopefully restore our relationship. He blew up, stormed out of my office and left the church he said "for good."

I had invested a lot of time and energy into his family so my initial reaction was hurt and anger. Over time my anger became bitterness as I heard he continued to trash me and the church as a whole. Every time I saw him around town the old hurt resurfaced, until the day God challenged me to grow up, get over it and treat him like Jesus had treated me. I walked up to him at a local store, looked him straight in the eyes, "Hey Johnny. Good to see you! I hope you and your family are doing well." To my surprise, his eyes locked into my mine and moistened up. He nodded his head, asked about my family, shook my hand and walked on. Forgiveness had been offered and the healing began.

"Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free and realizing you were the prisoner." -Max Lucado

Prayer: Thank you God for your grace. Help me accept your forgiveness and freely give it to others.

Written by Pastor Rick