

Because of a snow storm we did not gather for church. Below: the first sermon in our February sermon series. When we read the Bible to explore God's expectations for healthy relationships, we may initially say, "That's crazy!" However, when we surrender to God's ideal, we change our tone of voice and, with enthusiasm, describe the results as "Crazy Love!"

Crazy Love

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

Truths about Forgiveness

1. "We all agree that forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it." C.S. Lewis
2. Forgiveness does not make the other person right; it makes you free.
3. You can reverse your future only by releasing other people from their past.
4. You know you have forgiven when you recall the offender and have the will to wish them well.
5. To know all is to forgive all.

How do we forgive as Jesus forgave us?

1. He took our sins upon Himself as though He had sinned our sins. Isaiah 53:3-6
2. He forgave before we asked and regardless of if I would ask. I John 4:19-21
3. He said, "Father forgive them" as though we ultimately offended God, interceded on our behalf and willing to be a funnel for God's forgiveness to flow through. Luke 23:34

People who are especially hard to forgive:

1. A parent who has died.
2. "invisible" mother who gave a child up for adoption.
3. Ourselves.

Not every offense calls for forgiveness:

1. Sometimes an offense calls for love. Proverbs 17:9, I Peter 4:8
2. Sometimes an offense calls for wisdom. Proverbs 19:11

Take some time to reflect and pray. Do you need freedom today? Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive? When we take the step to pray, God takes the next step by opening the door of the prison. We are then free to step out of the prison and live in freedom.