

Pitching Our Tent

Clearing the Ground Part 2:
Embracing and Living in Forgiveness



Where We Are

- We have focused singly on the person of Christ and our identity in Him for four years (Isaiah 53)
- We want to become a church inviting the hungry and the thirsty to come and experience the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 55)
- Today I believe we are in an Isaiah 54 season where we are pitching our tent to be bigger, better and bolder as a church



Our Current phase in Pitching...

- Is Clearing the ground to ensure we build on the right foundations and are ready to receive what God wants for us
- It is vital we prepare our hearts, our lives, our services, our schedule and even this building to allow God to do what He will amongst us



Clearing The Ground

1. Create In Me a Clean Heart
2. Embracing and Living in Forgiveness
3. Letting Go of Unforgiveness
4. Letting Go of Lies and Ungodly Beliefs
5. Dealing With Demonic Oppression



Clearing the Ground

- Part 3
 - Embracing and Living in Forgiveness
- Pretext – Gods heart is for us to know and love Him and for us to enjoy our relationship with Him and know and share the fullness of life that He gives.



CARU DUW CARU POBL LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

It is **Time** to
Let Go!

ELIM CHURCH
ABERYSTWYTH



Colossians 3

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.



We Are The Forgiven

- As we embrace and live in the forgiveness that God has mercifully given to us...
- The next stage is to give the gift we have received: To Forgive others



Everybody Hurts

- This is real life
- Each one of us has been deeply hurt by someone – a friend, a relative, a pastor, a teacher, a bully, a boss, a colleague, and so on...



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Forgiveness Is...

- God's heart
- Essential
- A done deal
- Total
- Received by faith
- Fuels our faith

We Must Forgive...

- As it is God's Heart
- It is Essential
- As it's part of the deal
- Totally (Or aspire to!)
- By Faith



We Must Forgive...

- Forgiveness is God's Heart
- "The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 145:8)
- We reflect His character and His nature when we forgive others
- Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.



We Must Forgive...

- Forgiveness is Essential
- God's forgiveness is essential for us
 - And so is ours!
- Matthew 6:14,15 "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."



We Must Forgive...

- It is part of the deal!
- Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”
- He wants to forgive your sins
- Don't tie his hands!



We Must Forgive...

- It is part of the deal!
- Love God, Love People (the second is 'like it')
 - Our relationship with people is intrinsic to our relationship with God
- Luke 6:37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
- The ungrateful servant... Matthew 18:35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."



We Must Forgive...

- Totally (or aspire to)
- Matthew 18:21, 22 – ‘Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’
- How many times has God forgiven you?
- This is Revolutionary in an ‘eye for an eye’ culture



We Must Forgive

- By faith
- It is often a tough choice, and is usually difficult to do
- "... forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God's hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy." (Yancey, What's So Amazing About Grace p.83)



Forgiveness is Not

- Forgetting
- Neglecting Justice
- Saying what they did is ok
- Reconciliation



They Don't Deserve It!

- But You do...
- Set yourself free from the pain and oppression that of whatever they did by letting it go
- Your anger or bitterness is not affecting them!
- Luke 17:3, 4 So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."



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It is **Time** to
Let Go!

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Today is a Day to
Clear some
more Ground

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**Is Today Your Day to
Let go of the pain that
someone has caused
you and be set free of
the damage it is
doing?**

