

Wounded Warriors

Wounding inevitable (friendly fire) - Strength in Unity vs Divide & Conquer

World: Opportunity to Display Culture of His Kingdom (especially in this culture)

returning Good under Suffering (context) creates Interest

(1Pe 3:15-16) ¹⁵But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

Church: Choice between Growth or Isolation

Personal Growth through Relational Conflict? (Prov 27:5-6, 17)

context of Correction (Heb 12:3-11) consequence of wrong choice

(Heb 12:12-15) ¹²Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. ¹⁴Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Bitterness to Isolation (Pr 18:1) to Defilement (ex: parents of youth)

Only Remedy for Wounding is Forgiveness (vs keep - roots)

(Mt 6:14-15) ¹⁴“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵“But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Forgiveness isn't Optional or Conditional (independent of offender's attitude)

Self Interest - harms us while offender is unaffected

harm: sets standard of justice (Mt 7:2, Jam 2:13)

Matthew 18:15-20 let's say you're right, he's wrong

loving, honorable process (not punishment)

Goal: Restored Relationship (Bound, Agreement)

(Mt 5:23-24) ²³“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴“leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 18:21-35

hundreds of millions vs few thousand

we can afford to be extravagant when we realize how wealthy we are (Rom 13:8)

unforgiveness is misplaced identity - forgotten you're an eternal child of God

defined by what someone did to you instead of what He did for you

(vs 34-35) tormentors = demonic oppression (healing, Tim - PTSD)

Forgiveness isn't diminishing the offence, but revealing the Grand Extend of His Love

ex: raped woman “they have to pay”

they will or He will, we aren't qualified to execute Vengeance (Rom 12:19)

we can't demand Justice for others and Mercy for ourselves

Forgiveness is a Decision (vs Feelings) - can't be retried in the Court of Heaven

doesn't suspend Wisdom - Trust? Relationship?