

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - CROSS CHURCH OF NORMAN

THE CROSS ROAD

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CHOOSING FORGIVENESS

When we hear the word forgiveness, most of us don't immediately smile and think, "Yes, that sounds easy." More often, something in us tightens up, or a wall immediately goes up around our heart. That's because forgiveness is deeply personal. It usually involves real hurt, real disappointment, and real people.

But as followers of Jesus, we are to be known for our ability and desire to forgive others.

In Micah 6:8, we're called to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. We see that most clearly at the cross. Jesus, completely sinless, yet deeply sinned against, prayed, "Father, forgive them." In that moment, justice and mercy met. It is the defining moment of history.

We must understand that forgiveness is not optional for the Christian. There are no scriptures that are going to "let us off the hook" for this virtue. Forgiving others is a command. This doesn't mean it's easy, and it certainly doesn't mean pretending the hurt didn't happen. We can be assured that God sees our pain and cares deeply about it. In fact, He stepped into it through Jesus.

In the simplest of terms, forgiveness is choosing to cancel a debt someone owes you. And if we're really honest, that's not something our emotions usually agree with right away. Sometimes it takes time for our hearts to catch up with our decision. We need to know that this is okay!

It's also important to remember that forgiveness and trust are not the same thing.

Forgiveness takes one person. Reconciliation takes two. If reconciliation happens, boundaries are necessary, and trust is rebuilt over time.

What is the consequence of unforgiveness? Bitterness. One thing we must always remember about bitterness is that it never stays contained. It will spill over into every other area of life and poison it. God does not want the root of bitterness to grow in our lives; this is why we are asked to forgive. It is as if God is saying, "Forgiveness is for you way more than it is for the other person. Choosing forgiveness isn't about saying, "It didn't matter." It's about saying, "It mattered, but I trust God more."



Lead Pastor

LAST WEEK @ CROSS CHURCH:

WEEKLY NEEDS: \$9,986.55

OFFERING: \$9,364.36

DIFFERENCE: -\$622.19

BUILDING FUND: \$272,115.22

ATTENDANCE:

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH
294

TUESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP
56

FAMILY NIGHT
130

COMING UP:

MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 10TH

SENIOR SUNDAY
MAY 17TH

MARRIAGE RETREAT
MAY 15TH & 16TH

TOGETHER WEEK
JUNE 22ND - JUNE 26TH

