

Series: Too Messy – “Love Your Neighbor”

Sermon: Forgiveness

February 7, 2016

1. What is a pet peeve of yours that annoys you about people?
2. What do you do that annoys other people?
3. Who is the easiest person to love in your life? Who is the most difficult to love?
4. We have been looking at the statement that Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." If we divide the statement into two thoughts: "Love your neighbor" and "as yourself", which thought is the most challenging?
5. Read James 3:2 and Romans 3:23. In light of these verses, how difficult is it to love your neighbor?
6. Read Mark 11:25, Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 18:21-22. Why do you think God places such a high priority on forgiveness?
7. Have you ever been on the path of unforgiveness? How were you affected by being on that path?
8. Do you think you can be honest with God about your true feelings about hurtful people and events? Why or why not?
9. The Steps of Forgiveness were mentioned as follows:
 - A. That's enough! The unforgiveness has to stop.
 - B. Ruthlessly honest! Be completely honest about the wrong that was done.
 - C. Tell it all to God!
 - D. Surrender your right to get even.
 - E. If the offender repents, tell him he is already forgiven.
 - F. Forgiving someone does not require trusting them.

*Which step do you think is most difficult?
**Which step do you need to pursue?
10. Lewis Smedes says, "When we forgive, you set a person free; and then you will discover that the person you set free, is you. You see, forgiveness is really not for their sake, it's for yours." Do you agree with this statement? If forgiveness has a dramatic effect on our life, why don't we pursue it with greater courage and intensity?