

THE HEALTHY LEADER



- ◆ The **“Growing”** Leader
(Increases your capacity to receive more and more.)
- ◆ The **“Teachable”** Leader
(Allows humility to lessen stress in your life.)
- ◆ The **“Forgiving”** Leader
(Protects you from a toxic disposition.)
- ◆ The **“Deferring”** Leader
(Lives to make “His” name famous and not your own.)

Bill Kirk

THE “FORGIVING” (HEALTHY) LEADER – PART III

As a leader, we will never grow (forward) until we accept responsibility for these five things:

- ◆ Our thoughts, our words, our motives, our actions, our attitudes.
 1. The quality of your thinking determines the quality of your life.
 2. Words matter and language matters more than we really know.
 3. It’s no secret that we can do the right things for the wrong reasons.
 4. When we make better decisions we live with fewer regrets.
 5. Regardless of our gifting’s and talents, attitude and disposition trumps it all.

Question: What’s the #1 disposition (and attitude) killer among spiritual leaders?

Answer: Unforgiveness (which produces a toxic attitude).

Question: Why is unforgiveness so evil, deadly and destructive?

Answer: It keeps you yoked to your past because you carry the weight of other people’s sin and poor decisions.

- ◆ It allows other people to define you, control you, detour you and distract you from God’s purpose for your life and ministry.
- ◆ Unforgiveness causes leaders to justify their ill-will and blame events and people for what’s inside of them.

(And the truth is)

- ◆ To the degree that I blame someone else for what’s inside me, to that same degree I cannot be changed and will not be healed.

Never, never forget this:

- ◆ Our personal growth accelerates and our ministry expands when we have a zero tolerance for anything that is not of God.

So if....

- ◆ The quality of your thinking determines the quality of your life, and
- ◆ The quality of your character determines the quality of your peace, and
- ◆ The quality of your forgiveness determines the quality of your attitude, disposition and relationships...then:
- ◆ Being a good forgiver will broaden your heart (and ministry) so that God can pour more into it! (O.T. Joseph, N.T. Stephen)

Question: What makes forgiveness possible?

Answer: Only one thing,

- ◆ By realizing, feeling, grasping and seeing the reality of God's massive and costly forgiveness of us through Christ! (Matthew 18:21-35)

In Other Words

- ◆ Only the knowledge of our **debt** to God can put into perspective someone else's debt to us!

In Other Words

1. The forgiveness of Christ gives us the emotional **humility** to forgive!

- ◆ For who am I to withhold forgiveness when I am such a sinner?

2. The forgiveness of Christ gives us the emotional **resources** to forgive!

- ◆ For what has this person really robbed me of, when I have so much in Christ?

The Good News Is

- ◆ If with our hearts we dwell on Christ's forgiveness of us, and with our wills we practice forgiveness of others, then slowly the feeling of forgiveness will come!

And Don't Forget These Four:

1. Ships don't sink because of the water on the outside of the ship—they sink by what gets on the **inside!**
2. The only power that an offense has over my life is the power that **I** give it!
3. I am not a product of my circumstances; I am a product of my **decisions!**
4. When we stop making what people have done **to** us bigger than what Jesus has done **for** us; we're on our way to Emotional Health!

And, anger, unforgiveness, offense, bitterness and resentment will become a thing of the past.

Nuf Sed!
Bill Kirk

- You've now become vulnerable to criticism and attack.
- Leaders are targets...and targets get hit.

Illustration: Saul never bothered David until David was anointed and called to serve and do something!

- ◆ Humility **protects** your heart when it's hurt! (How?)
 - You learn from it versus being offended by it.
 - You realize you are not entitled, exempt or elite.
 - You have the privilege of following in the steps of Jesus.
 - You understand that you are never defined by your anointing, gifting, applause, criticism or opinion of others.
 - You've settled the matter as a healthy servant leader that it's normal and to be expected.
 - You understand it would be nice if everybody liked you, but it's not necessary for God to use you.
 - You understand that not everyone that you start with will you end with.

Illustration: Jesus was often attacked yet He proved that it's possible to have the heart of a child and the hide of a rhinoceros (tough skin and tender heart).

Nuf Sed!
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