

"howwhywhoWHAThowmuch"

GLOBAL EVANGELISM

Matthew 5:9,

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS:

for they shall be called the children of God."

- STEP 1: Admit I need God's help because I'm powerless to change my past, control others, or change my unhealthy habits
- STEP 2: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
- STEP 3: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
- STEP 4: I must openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God and to someone I trust.
- STEP 5: Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
- STEP 6: Evaluate all my relationships, offer forgiveness to those who've hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others... except, when to do so, would harm them or others.

1. I must forgive those who have hurt me.
2. I must make amends to those I've hurt.

PART 1: I MUST FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE HURT ME

Why?

1. Resentment doesn't work.

Job 5:2, "For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one."

2. Because God has forgiven me.

Colossians 3:13, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

3. Because I need forgiveness in the future.

Matthew 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

How?

1. Admit my hurt.

- Repress it: "It never happened."
- Ignore it: "I don't want to deal with it."
- Suppress it: "It's no big deal... really, it's over."

2. Release the offender.

Matthew 18:21-22, "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

- The empty chair
- Write a letter you don't mail

3. Pursue God's power.

Colossians 3:15, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

2 Thessalonians 3:16, "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

Part 2: I MUST MAKE AMENDS TO THOSE I'VE HURT

Why?

James 3:18, "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

How?

1. Remember those I've harmed.

Romans 12:18, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

2. Make amen

Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

– With humility

– With no excuses

– With restitution

– With sensitivity

3. Refocus your life.

Job 11:13-16, "If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him; If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear: Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away:"