

A Christ Followers Response to Wrong-Doing

2 Corinthians 2:5-17 (ESV)

We have all be hurt by someone or something. We watch the news and pass judgement on others. We build up some and tear down others. But Paul says there is a better way. That we are not to avenge ourselves or or values. We are to Love God and Love Others. We are to practice forgiveness even when it is not asked for or deserved (in out opinion).

1- Forgiveness is the Goal -

5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

What was Paul perspective on responding to those who cause pain?

How does that compare to your perspective?

How does the world tell us to respond to pain?

Where does forgiveness fit into the idea of dealing with those who harm us?

How does Forgiveness leads to Restoration?

What was Jesus' attitude towards those who hurt him when he died on the cross?

2 - Forgiveness is Obedience

9 For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

How is practicing forgiveness the same as practicing obedience?

If we are unwilling to forgive, what does Paul say we are doing?

Why does Satan not want us to forgive?

What is the difference between practicing judgement, hate and fear and practicing forgiveness?

If forgiveness is so great, why is it so hard to practice?

3 - Forgiveness is Life

12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia. But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

What does it mean to be the "aroma of Christ?"

Why is that aroma good to some and bad to others?

What can you do to be a good aroma?