

Discussion Questions

Theologic

Ephesians 4:17-32

(Share about a time when you experienced undeserved grace and forgiveness from someone.)

(Share about a time when you needed to extend undeserved grace and forgiveness to someone.)

- Have you ever struggled with God's willingness to be so forgiving and His challenge to us to forgive like He forgives?
- Through reflecting on Jesus and His love and forgiveness towards you and others, what have you learned about how to forgive?

"The cause of insanity is a hard heart and the cure for insanity is a broken heart—a heart that's broken for love, a heart that's tender."—Peter Hiatt

- Share about a time when you had a hard heart and God needed to break it. How did He do it? And how did it change you?

In Ephesians 4:25-32 we read what being renewed in the spirit of our minds and putting on the New Man looks like: "Speak the truth with our neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

- Out of the above list, which do you struggle with most?
- Can you think of a recent situation in which you felt broken hearted? If so, what might God be inviting you to in the midst of that pain? (Can you find something in the list above that He might be helping you grow in?)

The Unpardonable Sin

- What have you been taught about the unpardonable sin?

In this sermon Peter said, "Jesus says, 'If you don't release people from their sins, neither will the Father release you from your sins...'" "You know, maybe it's Grace that we are not released from our sins until we learn to release others of their sins.

- Do you agree or disagree with Peter's statement? Why?

He explains more here:

The old man inhales the breath of God and refuses to exhale. He breathes in but won't breathe out. The old man refuses to breathe the Breath of God; He takes life but won't surrender life. The old man refuses to bleed and that can't be forgiven because forgiveness is bleeding, and bleeding is life; it's blood flowing to every member.

I'm saying, "I think the "unforgivable sin" is unforgiveness, and we've all committed it. And we must surrender it; it's the hatred of forgiveness, the hatred of Grace. Everything is Grace, and until we surrender to Grace, we're trapped in outer darkness, lies and illusion—the dominion of the devil. But even that is Grace that we would come to have ungrace, so that, "the old Man might be destroyed and the Spirit might be saved on the Day of the Lord." 1 Corinthians 5:5. —Peter Hiatt

Take a moment to contemplate these questions:

- Is there any space inside of me that hates forgiveness or grace for myself? For others?
- Is there any space inside of me that takes the breath and life and refuses to share it?
- Is there any place in me that is unforgiving towards God and the way He invites me to grace?
- Is there any place in my heart that has cut itself off and trapped itself in outer darkness that I need to surrender to God's Light and Life?

Take a moment to reflect on all that Jesus did to forgive us and show us the path towards forgiveness. Then have an honest conversation with Him about all that it stirs up in you and ask for His help in extending His life to others. Confess that *you* can't, but He—in you—can!

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weymen*