Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. February 24, 2019

**Live In Harmony, Forgive One Another**

Ephesians 4:25-32

**Key Truth:** Disciples of Jesus Christ do not hold grudges but model God’s forgiveness to one another.

*“Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.”*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**What Grieves The Holy Spirit**:

1. Harsh words spoken to one another.

2. Evil attitudes toward one another.

3. Unforgiveness grieves the Holy Spirit and hinders our

 spiritual maturity.

**The Reasons We Forgive:**

1. God forgave us.

2. Jesus Christ commands us.

3. Unforgiveness hinders our prayers.

4. We will at one time or another need forgiveness.

 Matthew 18:21-35

5. Forgiveness communicates to the world that we are

 followers of Jesus Christ.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for the grace He has shown us in sending Jesus to be the payment for our sins. Ask God to help us release any grudges we have that might be keeping us from truly loving others.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Think about Jesus’ life and ministry. What does the gospel teach us about the importance of forgiveness in the life of a disciple?

READ Romans 12:19 and Hebrews 12:15: The reason we hold a grudge against another person is because we can’t move past the hurt he or she has caused us. What do each of these verses teach us about how we move on from relational hurts?

READ Luke 6:27-28: How does this description of love challenge you? As followers of Jesus today, what do we communicate to the world when they see us responding to evil with good?

How many of us remember being hurt by someone when we were younger? Why do you think it is so hard for us to remember things we learned in school, but easy for us to remember when people have hurt us and hold grudges against them?

Read Ephesians 4:30: According to verse 31, what are the sinful attitudes that grieve the Holy Spirit of God? Which of these resonate with you?

Whether you are currently harboring a grudge or have done so in the past, what is your main takeaway from this week’s sermon?