



date January 24 & 25
speaker Mike Bellanti



A Seemingly Difficult Thing to Do

Ephesians 4:17-32

Choosing forgiveness

- Forgiveness shapes the core of the Christian faith
- Jesus commands us to forgive one another (specifically in the church)

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

Why is forgiving so hard?

The Consequences of unforgiveness

Hebrews 12:14-15

Forgiveness is not...

- Denying the pain and damage
- Excusing the offense
- Pretending everything is fine
- Instant trust
- Reconciliation at all costs
- Allowing ongoing abuse or mistreatment
- Forgetting what happened
- Release from consequences

Forgiveness is...

- A decision before a feeling
- Releasing the need to get even
- Setting down the weight



sermon notes

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Where do we start?

Forgiveness begins when we remember we have been forgiven

Ephesians 4:32 – ...forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Forgiveness removes the devil's space

Ephesians 4:26-27 – And don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

Look for good

Ephesians 4:30 – Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.