

## THE BARRIER OF UNFORGIVENESS

### I. Ephesians 2:13-14 - “*Jesus broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.*”

A. Many Christians have barriers in their lives that keeps them from experiencing all that God has for them.

1. **A Barrier keeps you from something or keeps something from you.**
2. A Barrier will block Spiritual growth and progress.
3. **A Barrier will keep you from giving the way you want and from receiving what you need.**

B. Most barriers that arise in our lives are relational barriers.

1. **We were all brought near by the blood of Christ.**
2. If I could sum up all of the Bible in one word, I would use “*Relationship.*”
3. **Matthew 22:37-40 - The vertical and the horizontal are eternally linked together, what happens in one surfaces in the other.**
4. Biblical righteousness is relational. Matthew 5:17 - Romans 13:8&10 & Gal 5:14

### C. Ephesians 2:14 - **At Calvary all barriers were removed.**

1. From Calvary on, if any barriers arise between God and man, they are on man’s side and not God’s
2. **Take a moment and remember what you experienced when you first got saved**
  - a. **The reason you experience so much is there were no barriers.**
  - b. Since that time many of you have erected relational barriers that have frustrated all that God wants to do in your life.
  - c. **Since you are the one that has put them up, only you can take them down.**

II. This morning I want to deal with the main barrier that interferes with the flow of God in your life, the “*Barrier of Unforgiveness.*”

### A. Matthew 6:9-15 - Verse 12 contain the key words, “*as we,*” you can’t change that, you are entitled to ask for forgiveness to the degree that you give it.

1. When you erect a barrier between you and another person you automatically Erect a barrier between you and God.
2. **Forgiveness sets the stage for fighting temptation and being delivered. When you are walking in unforgiveness, Satan has a legal claim over your life.**

**B. Matthew 18:19-20 - In these verses are the source of all power and authority for the individual believer.**

1. If you read verses 15-18 and then verses 21-35 you will see that this promise of power is guarded with a fence.

**2. This fence is called “*Right Relationship*.”**

a. If you haven’t matured enough to love and relate to one another, then you aren’t mature enough to handle God’s power and authority.

**b. The power to live a victorious Christian life is generated by being in right relationship with God and each other.**

c. There is power in Relationships - Genesis 11:1-9.

**d. There is provision in relationships - Ephesians 1:18**

e. This is why Satan does everything he can to cause us to erect barriers.

**3. Matthew 18:18 - Many Christians take this scripture out of context.**

4. Matthew 18:23-35 - “*The Unforgiving Servant*.”

a. Verse 32 - God considers failure to forgive others as wickedness.

b. Verse 34 - Because of his unforgiveness the servant was delivered to the tormentors.

c. Verse 35 - **And so shall our heavenly Father do to you.**

1) Do what? - Hand you over to the tormentors

**2) If you are in mental torment, physical torment, emotional torment, or spiritual torment, then there may be “unforgiveness” in your heart.**

C. Remember what I said earlier “*Forgiveness sets the stage for fighting temptation and being delivered.*” Ephesians 4:26-27

**1. By not dealing with your anger quickly, you give the devil an opportunity to turn that anger into unforgiveness.**

2. If you will forgive (your part), the Lord will keep you from temptation and deliver you from the evil one (God’s part).

**3. Satan knows that if he can get you to put up walls between you and others then you automatically put up walls between you and God. Therefore Satan has a “heyday” with you by tormenting and imprisoning you.**