

## **From Pastor Ed: The 21 Day Wesley Challenge**

This is day 20! Nearing the end, or the beginning?

OT (Over Time) session follows worship!

### **Day Twenty Question Twenty**

Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard?

Corinthians 13:4-8

Today's question covers a lot of ground. Taking into account the people we fear, those we feel disdain or indifference towards, and the people we resent can add up to a few people, or for some of us, many. We cannot fully live the Christian life, as Jesus meant us to, until we are at peace not only with God and our self, but also with others.

- Have you created or kept separation between yourself and another person because you simply don't like them? If so, ask yourself what is driving this dislike. More broadly, would you say you are at peace with God, self and others? Why or why not?
- Read Romans 12:9-17 (aloud if possible). Reflect on how living out those Scriptural principles can produce a positive response to today's question. As first steps, sometime in the next week, if the occasion presents itself, speak with a person who "rubs you the wrong way." Find a moment today to say something kind to someone you dislike or have intentionally steered clear of.

**Prayer:** Lord, change me. Replace comparison with compassion in my heart and mind, and make me more like Christ...loving to all. Amen.

### **Day 20 devotional 20: (thanks to Pastor Rick Warren)**

***"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (Colossians 3:13 NLT)***

Many of us have someone in our lives who has done some crazy, hurtful thing to us or, maybe even more importantly, to somebody that we love. In our minds we think, "I know the Christian thing to do is to forgive, so I will. I will forgive him as soon as he gives me an apology."

The problem with that is, you're still holding on to the hurt. Truth is, that person may never ask you for forgiveness. He may never say he's sorry, because he doesn't get it, or she may not even realize what she's done. So you end up stewing over something that the other person has long ago forgotten. And it's eating you up inside!

Never hold on to a hurt, because resentment tears you up. Resentment is like drinking poison and hoping it's going to kill someone else. It doesn't work. You have to decide that, before anything else happens, you are going to forgive that person.

Jesus said this even in the most extreme of circumstances, as he's hanging on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34a NIV).

So what do you do? When you struggle with forgiving, remember the great gift of God's forgiveness.

Remember a verse like Colossians 3:13: *"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others"* (NLT). It's not a bad one to memorize and carry with you throughout the day, because you're going to have plenty of chances to use it.

That phrase "make allowance" is the Greek word that means *"to bear with, to endure, to be tolerant."* Basically it means to cut people some slack. Jesus said, *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy"* (Matthew 5:7 NIV). I want God's blessing in my life and your life. One of the ways you receive that is by being merciful.

### **Talk About It**

- What hurt are you still holding onto?
- What do you need to do today so that your hurt does not turn into resentment?