

IV. FORGIVE FOR VICTORY

“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” II Corinthians 2:11

- A. Bitterness is one of Satan’s most common devices.
“looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;”
Hebrews 12:15
- B. When we don’t forgive we give place to the devil.
*“26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
27 nor give place to the devil.”* Ephesians 4:26-27
- C. Our daily walk with God is hindered when we do not forgive.
*“14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*
Matthew 6:14-15

Trade In Your Grudges For Jesus’ Forgiveness

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

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Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A. Are you ready for a change? The cross of Jesus Christ was the place where the great exchange took place. His all for our nothing. His righteousness for our sin. His death for our life.
And it did not end there. Through the power of the gospel many more exchanges take place today for those “in Christ”.
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17
- B. The Bible book of II Corinthians reveals seven beautiful ways Jesus can change your life. Attend The Great Exchange teaching series and discover how to trade your pain for Jesus’ new life. The messages include:
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|--------|--|
| Apr 16 | Trade In Your Sin For Jesus’ Righteousness |
| Apr 24 | Trade In Your Depression For Jesus’ Encouragement |
| TODAY | Trade In Your Grudges For Jesus’ Forgiveness |
| May 8 | Trade In Your Discouragement For Jesus’ Motivation |
| May 15 | Trade In Your Suffering For Jesus’ Perfection |
| May 22 | Trade In Your Greed For Jesus’ Generosity |
| May 29 | Trade In Your Weakness For Jesus’ Strength |
- Come and hear these messages learn valuable lessons for building your story today.
- C. **TEXT:** II Corinthians 2:1-11
This passage is a follow up to one of the individuals Paul wrote about in I Corinthians. The person was sinning and Paul urged him to repent. Paul does not name the person. There a few possibilities so we don’t know for sure exactly who or what he is referring too. What we do know is the person repented of their sin and Paul is urging that love and forgiveness be extended to him.

HOW TO TRADE IN YOUR GRUDGES FOR JESUS' FORGIVENESS

I. FORGIVE WITH LOVE

"For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you."
II Corinthians 2:4

"Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him."
II Corinthians 2:8

A. Confront with love.

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."
Matthew 18:15

"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."
Galatians 6:1

B. Speak the truth with love.

"but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—"
Ephesians 4:15

*"19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,
20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."*
James 5:19-20

C. Cover with love.

"Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins."
Proverbs 10:12

II. FORGIVE WITH OBEDIENCE

"For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things." II Corinthians 2:9

A. Forgiveness can be a hard commandment to obey.

"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive." C.S. Lewis

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."
John 14:15

B. Forgiveness is a required commandment to obey.

*"30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*
Ephesians 4:30-32

III. FORGIVE THROUGH CHRIST

"Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ," II Corinthians 2:10

A. Christ modeled forgiveness for us.

"Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do..."
Luke 23:34a

B. Forgive knowing Christ forgave you.

"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."
Colossians 3:13