Pastor Dave Patterson
YOU BELONG HERE
Part 4: Healing in the House

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group’s goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

If you don't deal with offense, it will deal with you.

[Ephesians 5:25-26]

“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.”
[Romans 12:17-18]

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

**Four Questions About Resolving Offense:**

1. What if you go to the person, tried to resolve offense, and the other person does not want anything to do with you? In other words, what if they don't agree to any resolution?

2. What if you forgave, and they intentionally hurt and offend again? What do you do when you want to "strike back" or "even the score"?

[Romans 12:19, AMP]

*Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for (leave the door open for) God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

3. If I forgive and reconcile, does that mean I must still pursue the friendship or stay in the relationship?

[Matthew 18.15, MSG]

*"If a fellow believer hurts you (sins against you), go and tell him—work it out between the two of you.*

[Proverbs 13:20]

*He who walks with the wise will become wise, but the companion of fools will suffer. (Experience harm)*
4. What if the process is not working for me: if weeks and months are passing without reconciliation? What do I do if I can't even track down the other person?

*Don’t let a stepping stone for you become a tombstone; don’t walk away from the process of spiritual maturity!*

FOUR KEYS TO "WALKING OUT FORGIVENESS"

1. "As much as it depends on you, live at peace"
2. Let God even the score—"vengeance is Mine..."
3. Forgive but create appropriate boundaries.
4. Embrace the process of spiritual growth.

FOUR REALITIES OF HURT AND OFFENSE

1. Churches don't hurt people; people hurt people.
2. Hurt Happens!...So prepare your heart accordingly.

*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults. [Ephesians 4:1-2]*

"No mature believer who is seasons in the word has the right to live offended."—Brian Houston

3. The Healing we need is found in The Body of Christ.

“The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don’t, the parts we see and the parts we don’t. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in
the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.” [1 Corinthians 12:25-26, MSG]

4. The Church has a job to do--you are God's "plan A."

   Christ died for the Church! Stick with the Bride!

HOMEWORK: Read article: "Loving the Bride"

DISCUSSION THOUGHTS

1. What are some things you need to finish or fix?
2. How is the gap between offense and forgiveness a window for spiritual growth?
3. Why is prayer and blessing such a big deal for follow-up post-forgiveness? What does God produce in us through this?
4. How do you understand the phrase: "hurt by the church?" Would you consider this a matter of semantics? What would a simple paradigm shift do to resolve more issues of offense?
5. Do you know anyone who has come out of "broken churches" or cults? What were the symptoms of their experience? How can we guard from that happening in our house?
6. Have you ever felt stuck because of offense within the church? What did it take to get out of that rut?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 12 and discuss how we "complete each other." (The full expression and function of the Church.)