

Forgiveness

Beneath the Surface #4

Relationship Rifts

Symptom of avoidance

Genesis 3:8 (NIV) ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." Psalm 27:9

Symptom of guilt

Romans 2:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ ... the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

The Blame Game

Genesis 3:8-14 (NIV) ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" ¹⁴ The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV) ¹³ He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Isaiah 55:8-9

Seeking Forgiveness

Adapted from "A Clear Conscience," Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts, 1969

- 1. Identify strained relationships.**
- 2. List the other person's offenses against you.**

Romans 2:1 (NIV) ¹ You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

- 3. List your offenses against the other person.**

Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV) ³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- 4. View the offenses from their perspective.**
- 5. Seek forgiveness through repentance.**
- 6. Accept the response.**

Granting Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12 (NIV) ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-22

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Romans 5:8 (NIV) ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.