

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP60

The Leaders Dress

Code:

Forgiveness

FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is "The Leaders Dress Code"

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "Forgiveness" But before we start on the new topic, we will usually hold each other accountable about last week's action step.

Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.

STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

Option 1: Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #**). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

Option 2: The leader reads all the sections.

Option 3: Watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/X8EalpfEh8s>

READER 1

THE LEADERS DRESS CODE

7. FORGIVENESS

Romans 13:14 (NIV) “... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ...”

Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV) “Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness** and patience.”

Def: Greek G5919 χαρίζομαι **charizomai**, to give grace; to forgive, cancel (a debt); to grant; to hand over into custody

- forgiveness is the grace to cancel the debt someone owes you, by handing them into the custody of the Lord.

It does not mean that whoever has wronged you gets away with it.

- Rather, you are transferring the pursuit of justice or revenge from yourself into the hands of the Lord

- This requires a genuine faith in the justice of God

Romans 12:19 (NIV) Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

The fruit of forgiveness is discovered when we look a bit deeper into the root of that word ‘charizomai’

- it comes from the word ‘chairō’

(NIV Word Study Dictionary) G5897 χαίρω
chairō, to rejoice, be glad, delighted; (as a greeting) Hail!, Greetings!

This reveals two amazing things:

1. There is joy and gladness that waits for the person who learns to forgive.

Quote: “Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die”

- We deceive and damage ourselves and the people around us by thinking that holding onto bitterness is our right or duty.

The Bible reveals that a root of bitterness defiles many!

- Your bitterness negatively impacts the people (as in family, friends and loved ones) around you!

Illust: *Jospeh forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery. The result was a joyous family reunion instead of a family divided by bitterness and guilt.*

2. The proof of forgiveness is the ability to greet someone instead of avoiding them

Illust: *Ever been in a grocery store and seen someone you are holding a grudge against?*

*- Quickly switch to the next aisle to avoid them!
- You haven't forgiven them until you can greet them!*

READER 4

CHALLENGE:

Some argue that it is too difficult or painful to forgive someone.

- *Truth is that forgiveness is costly*
- *You want the person to suffer just like they have made you suffer.*

This is why the scripture says that we need to forgive:

“Forgive as the Lord forgave you”

Jesus literally paid the price on the Cross with His blood to forgive us

- *Our forgiveness cost Jesus his life.*
- *Our forgiveness cost our Father the life of His Son.*
- *The Innocent One paid for the guilty*
- *So that the guilty could receive his innocence*
- *So YES, forgiveness is COSTLY.*

READER 5

BUT THE COST OF UNFORGIVENESS IS EVEN HIGHER!

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray he gave them a strong warning:

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

BIG IDEA: In other words, a lack of forgiveness from our part, blocks God’s grace and mercy from flowing TO us.

As leaders in the Kingdom, this is a critical area where a powerful example is needed.

- Leaders set the tone in an organization through their example*
- An organization characterised by grace and trust is the result of godly leaders who extend mercy and grace to others.*

This is part of the Leaders Dress Code - Put on Forgiveness!

STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.*

STEP #5: Application

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer the following questions:

1. *Look again at the definition of the Greek word for forgiveness ('charizomai') and the root of that*

definition ('chairō'). What stands out to you about the definition of these words?

2. *The Bible says "Forgive as the Lord forgave you". How much of a revelation do you have of God's forgiveness in your life?*

3. *Why is it so crucial that leaders are good at forgiving others? How does this characteristic impact an organization?*

CLOSING

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

