

Forgiving Dad

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Text: Matthew 6:9-10; Ephesians 6:4

Introduction:

As a pastor, I have learned that almost every son has cause to forgive his own father, and that the reverse is also true!

"When I woke up that morning I had to make sure the sun was still rising in the east! I wasn't certain of ANYTHING anymore."

—Anonymous

Children, you need to forgive your father if he was:

_____ emotionally.
_____.

A poor husband who _____ your mom.

Forgiving your own father's failings can liberate you from:

Much of your internal _____ pain.

Many unrecognized _____ about God.

A chronic sense of personal _____ and _____.

A sense of _____ for carrying unresolved

_____ and a spirit of _____.

The vague sense of _____ that a son's unrequited

_____ and desire for _____ can

create.

The real reason that it is sometimes difficult to forgive our own fathers is that we so often had such high expectations for them!

When sons are small, they usually think that their father is:

_____ and _____.

Always _____.

The man they want to someday _____.

The most common cause for failing to _____ a father is that we don't want to believe that we _____ to!

Sometimes we:

Hold ourselves _____ for our father's _____.

Think that it will be impossible to _____ our father unless we find a way of _____ their behavior, because we can easily confuse our need to _____ our father with holding them _____.

The only thing that can ever truly be forgiven is sin!

If you need to forgive you dad, it will become far easier when you have:

Accepted the truth that you are an _____ man and that he is just another _____ man!

Accepted the fact that the only perfect _____ and perfect _____ are both in _____.

Experienced a genuine _____ of your own _____.

A sense of disappointment in the father/son relationship is inevitable unless we can come to understand and accept we are human beings rather than gods!

Conclusion:

The pathway to male healing runs by the Cross!