

Making Room (Forgiveness)

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Prayer

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. In Jesus Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Ephesians 4:31-32

Context

Traveling whether for work or leisure can be both exciting and stressful. One of the chores that often invokes dread is packing for the trip. Determining what to take and what to leave behind can be a long and tedious process. Frequent travelers understand that leaving something essential behind can be either inconvenient and/or costly. Attempting to take too many things can generate overweight luggage fees at the airport or a shortage of space in a vehicle. As we travel to new places in our spiritual journey with Christ we must determine what types of behaviors are essential and which ones would be better left behind.

Exegesis

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, identifies several habits that the members of the church should avoid. In fact, he appeals to the members to search their hearts and, if necessary, purge themselves of these unproductive ways. The traits that he identifies primarily deal with interpersonal relationships and the way we treat one another. He also identifies several habits that we should develop and make a center piece of our relationship with one another.

Conversation

These traits identified in Ephesians 4 are the essential traits necessary for work in the kingdom. However, it would seem that these traits are rare in our communities. How do we account for this?

Questions

1. What additional behaviors do you believe are detrimental to the body of Christ?
2. How can we work to promote a Christ-like environment in our homes and in the church?
3. Can you think of an incident when you successfully resolved a conflict in or out of the church and how did it make you feel?