

Single & Single-Again TUES NITES Meal, Message & Mixer

LOVE –Forgiveness – Grace – And A Fresh Start

Jane Stolz' video teachings, handouts, and audio Mp3 files of messages will be online to share with others at

www.christiansinglesindenver.com

What is Real Forgiveness?

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

The Bible says real forgiveness is four things:

Forgiveness is **R** _____ how much you've been forgiven.

Forgiveness is **R** _____ your right to get even.

Forgiveness is **R** _____ to evil with good.

Forgiveness is **R** _____ the process as long as necessary.

Two levels:

Level 1 – unconditional- My conscience choice to release a person from a debt owed due to an injury suffered. It's my decision; my choice not to hold a grudge though wrong has been done. This type of forgiveness is unconditional. “We can't make some pay” Betrayal – lying – deceit - It releases the debt.

Level 2 – Conditional – My conscience choice to open the door of relationship after the offender has demonstrated a genuine repentance over time. This type of forgiveness is conditional. It requires change.

Forgive Because You Are Forgiven

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

Why should I offer grace to that person?

You ought to do it for three reasons:

1. You need to be gracious to others and forgive those who've hurt you because God has been **G** _____ to you.
2. You need to forgive others because the alternative is **B** _____.
3. You need to show grace to and forgive others because God **E** _____ you to do it.

Why Doesn't God Reject Sinners?

“[God] will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.” (Psalm 103:9-10, 13)

His love is **U** _____

Your salvation isn't based on your **P** _____

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Jesus has already taken your P _____

Jesus understands your human W _____

God doesn't keep G _____

Five Ways to Relax in God's Grace

"Be careful that no one fails to receive God's grace." (Hebrews 12:15a NCV)

Realize nobody's perfect

Enjoy God's unconditional love

Let God handle things

Act in faith, not fear

eXchange your perfectionism for God's peace

Anybody Need a Fresh Start?

"Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven." (1 Peter 1:3-4 MSG)

"Everything that we have — right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start — comes from God by way of Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

What Should You Do When You Sin?

*"If you return to Me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me."
(Jeremiah 15:19a NLT)*

Discussion Questions:

- What troubles or grudges or guilt can you let go of when you understand that nobody's perfect?
- What are some other aspects of God's love that can help you relax?
- What difference has God's grace made in your life? How can you extend that grace to others?
- What hurt do you need to let go of?
- What good can you do for someone in your life who hates you or who has wronged you?
- Why do you think we try to hide our sin from God even when we know he sees and knows everything?
- How does your life differ from what it was like before you became a Christian?
- Who in your life needs to hear the Good News that Jesus gives a fresh start? How can you reach out to that person?
- What do you need God to restore in your life that has been broken because of sin?

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- How can you be more effective for Christ by returning in repentance to him? What do you want to accomplish for God's Kingdom?