

III. **RECEIVE** GOD'S FORGIVENESS

"20 ...But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;

24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry."

Luke 15:20b-24

"6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace "

Ephesians 1:6-7

"...should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16c

**Don't Allow Your Past Hurt To Keep Hurting You!
Find Forgiveness Today**

FORGIVENESS

Letting Go Of Your Hurt
How Can I Find Forgiveness?
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A.** Are you exhausted from carrying around hurt? When you experience hurt you have to choose between holding on to it or letting it go. When you hold on to the hurt from your past, you prevent the healing for your future. Forgiveness is the key to letting go of your hurt and finding hope. It is not easy to forgive, but it is possible.

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

- B.** In this series, you will discover the answer to six vital forgiveness questions.

TODAY	How Can I Find Forgiveness?
Apr 8	What Is Forgiveness?
Apr 15	How Can I Stop Thinking About The Hurt?
Apr 22	Why Forgive?
Apr 29	How Can I Restore A Broken Relationship?
May 6	Is Forgiveness Really Forever?

Don't allow your past hurt to keep hurting you!

- C. TEXT:** Luke 15:11-13 (Pew Bible/Pg. 1026/New Test.)

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

I Timothy 6:10

HOW TO FIND FORGIVENESS

I. **RECOGNIZE** YOU NEED GOD

“14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!’”
Luke 15:14-17

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
Isaiah 53:6

“Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.”
Proverbs 13:15

Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, ...”
John 3:16a

II. **RETURN** HOME TO GOD

“18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’”

20 “And he arose and came to his father....”

Luke 15:18-20a

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

Proverbs 28:13

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,”
I Peter 3:18

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
Romans 10:9

“6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”
7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
James 4:6-8

“...that whoever believes in Him ...”

John 3:16b