

What Unforgiveness Does
Gen. 45:1-5 & 9-11

Human beings were created to thrive in _____ with other human beings. Life is closer to _____ and closer to _____ when people are living together in harmony.

In **Genesis 1**, God said, “Let _____ make mankind in our image, in our likeness,....” We are created in the image of the God who exists as _____—three, yet one—so, our individual lives will struggle mightily to be healthy and whole if we are living outside of healthy _____.

_____ is where we are supposed to experience unconditional _____ and acceptance, support and encouragement, knowledge of _____—all the things that healthy godly community provides. But sometimes families don’t. Genesis 45 tells us what Joseph did when his brothers had done about the worst thing a brother can do to a brother short of murder. He _____ them.

He showed true forgiveness. It is choosing to no longer require _____ or _____ for past injuries. It is also giving permission to the one who wronged to forgive _____. And forgiveness involves doing _____ to the one forgiven.

Joseph didn’t have the teachings of _____. Like the Lord’s Prayer or the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. He didn’t have **Eph. 4:32** or know **1 Peter 3:9** or have Christ’s example of _____ on the cross or **2 Cor. 5:19**.

Mostly, I think he had _____ what bitterness, holding grudges, and revenge could do. Except for God, it would have _____ his life and _____ the promises of God for His people. He knew it had to end with _____...with forgiveness. He realized that unforgiveness destroys relationships and with them, _____ itself.

When we express anger, retaliate, alienate and eliminate our enemies, we _____ and _____ our circle of relationships. But God created us to live and thrive in community, _____ as it always is. So, we must forgive.