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It's A Trap
PT 3: The Truth about Forgiveness

4 Corners Church
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Luke 17:1 *It is impossible to no offense should come....*

Scandalon: the bait that triggers a trap to close when an animal touches it.

The level of personal hurt is directly proportional to level of relationship.
The closer you are, the more painful the hurt.

Probably more characters are spoiled by the nursing of grudges and the harboring of grievances than by anything else. -- R. V. G. Tasker, Pastor NT Scholar

"Bitterness has put more people on the shelf for God than any other thing he knows. It is a sort of self-cannibalism that eats your insides out." --Lorne Sanny, longtime President of The Navigators

Forgiveness is Not:

1. **Forgetting**
2. **Waiting For An Apology**
3. **Ceasing To Feel Pain**
4. **A One-Time Event**
5. **Trusting**
Trust is all about the other person and time.
Trust has to be earned over time through the acts that follow repentance.
6. **Reconciliation**
Forgiveness puts aside all bitterness and all plans for revenge.

In reconciliation, both parties actively work to repair the breach.

Romans 12:8 *As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Romans 12:19 *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to revenge; I will repay," say the Lord.*

Time does not heal all wounds.

Passage of time does not produce maturity relationally, emotionally, or spiritually.

Time with the Lord can lead to all wounds being healed.