



October 29, 2023

Wisdom for Forgiveness | Proverbs 17:9

Matt Kinniburgh

S U M M A R Y

This past weekend we explored how we can foster love in our lives by choosing the wisdom of forgiveness. The wicked person says not only will I not forgive, but instead I will fight and try to one up the pain they caused. The foolish person says I will not forgive them and will either hold it against them or pretend it didn't happen, both of these things open us up to bitterness. The wise person seeks to forgive and fosters love.

R E A D

Proverbs 17:9

Pause. Take time to prayerfully consider what has been read,

D I S C U S S

- 1) Is forgiveness something that is easy or difficult for you? Why is it that way?
- 2) Our culture has a value of being easily offended. Where do you see being easily offended in your life and in our culture?
- 3) Matt discussed how things like unforgiveness can harden the soil of our heart and slow the work of the Spirit in our lives, have you thought of this before?
- 4) Proverbs 17:14 says "Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out." Think of the cultural stories that we tell, for example books and

movies, what story do we repeat the one where we end a quarrel by forgiveness or by trying to get the upper hand?

- 5) If forgiveness is the better way, why do we often turn to bitterness, revenge, or ignoring?

R E S P O N D

Take some time in listening prayer to explore the soil of your heart.

Ask Jesus these questions. *Jesus where is the soil of my heart hard? How are you wanting to soften it? What work do I need to soften it?*

*Share how the Spirit is inviting you to respond today and the week to come – to **be with** Jesus, to **become like** Jesus, or to **do what** Jesus does.*

P R A Y

Pray for courage to forgive. Bless one another with the forgiveness that God promises.

Take time to wait and pray together. What is Jesus praying for? Come into agreement with His prayers.

