

# HOLY IMITATION

Eph 4:30-5:2



“And don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”

“Therefore, **be imitators of God**, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.”

# ... be imitators of God

1. Motivated by love
2. Equipped with love
3. Trained to love

# 1. Motivated to love

- Loved, forgiven and adopted by Father
- Redeemed by Son
- Sealed by Holy Spirit

## 2. Equipped to love

“Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. And **be kind and compassionate** to one another, **forgiving** one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”

# 3. Training to love

“Let all **bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander** be removed from you, along with all **malice**. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”

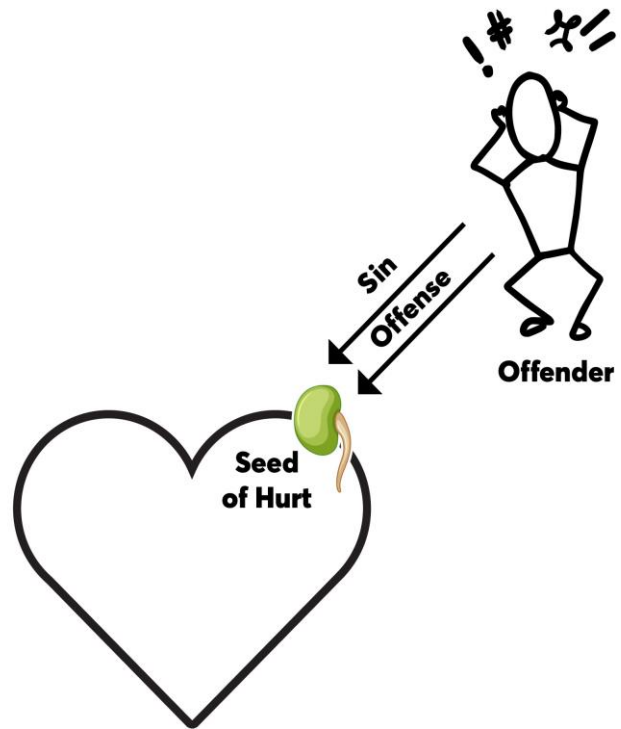
# Natural responses

- Bitterness
- Anger
- Wrath
- Shouting
- Slander
- Malice



# Don't grieve God's Holy Spirit





“When Ahithophel realized that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his house in his hometown. He set his house in order and hanged himself. So he died and was buried in his father’s tomb.”

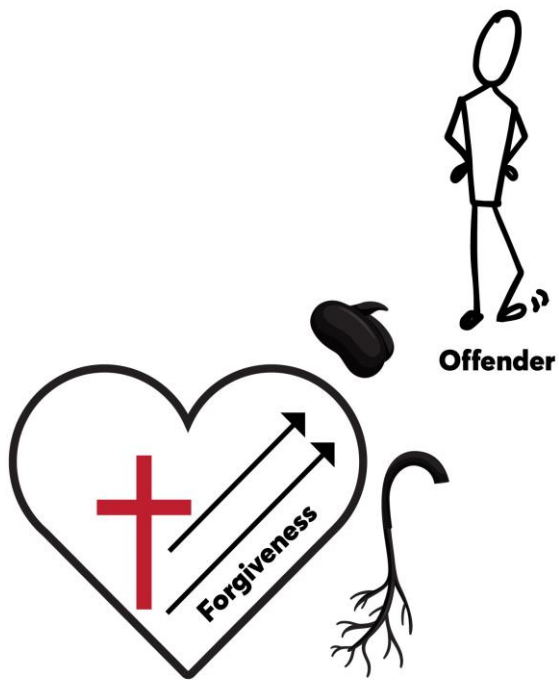




**Offender**

- Bitterness is settled anger against the offender
- Bitterness is the result of not forgiving others, it is the result of responding improperly (unbiblically) to an offense.

**“Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.”**



# Godly response

“Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving** one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”



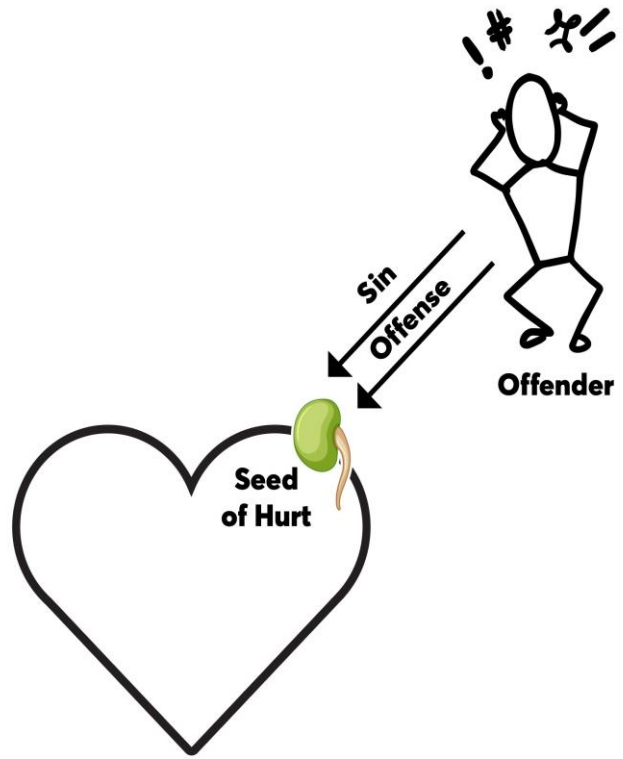
# Forgiveness is a promise

- I will not remind you about it
- I will not tell others about it
- I will not dwell on it

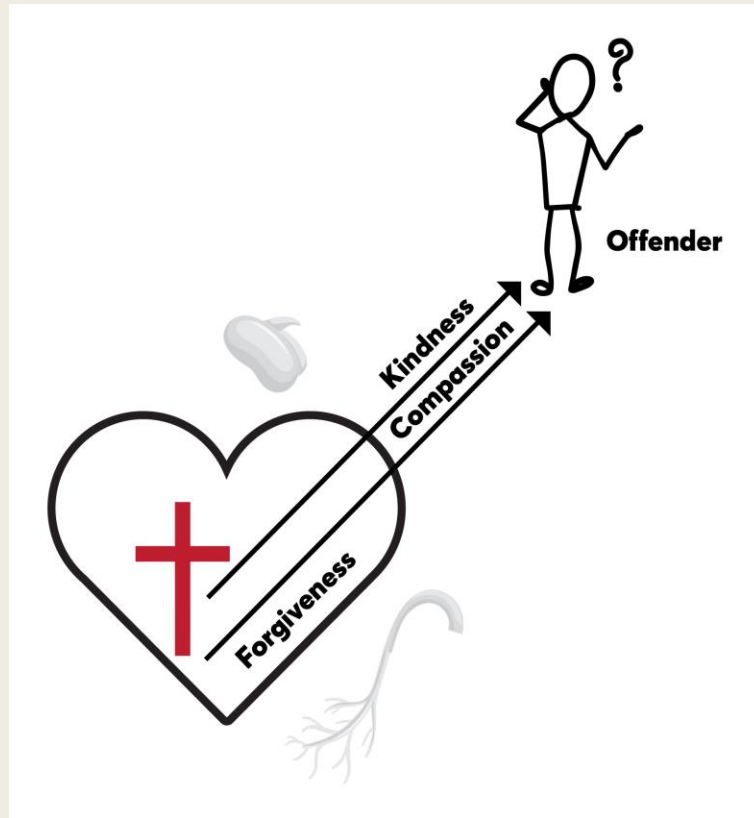


“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing.” Mk 11:25

Forgiveness or repentance?



“And **be kind and compassionate** to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”



“Do not be conquered by evil, but **conquer evil with good.**”  
Rom 12:21

“Above all, **maintain constant love** for one another, since **love covers a multitude of sins.**” 1 Pet 4:8

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