



FORGIVING - DEALING WITH OFFENSES

Colossians 3:12-14

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

A tiger responds by attacking and feels angry.

A turtle responds by retreating and feels hurt.

But we are not animals.

Responding To Offenses

I. Don't deny it; deal with it quickly. Eph 4:26 & 27

II. Start by looking inside. Psalm 4:4

We may feel angry or hurt because of:

1. Unrealistic expectations.

2. Other "stuffed" frustrations.

3. Just plain selfishness. James 4:1 & 2

WARNING: An unwarranted acquittal is not forgiveness

III. Go seeking understanding.

1. Go when I have offended. Matt. 5:23 & 24

2. Go when I have been offended. Matt. 18:15

WARNING: There are no guarantees. Rom. 12:18

To minimize the pain of present offenses

ask Jesus to heal the wounds of the past.