

Notes from Group Presentation

An Incomplete Apology

King David

Any sin is ultimately and “preeminently” a sin against God. However, sin often involves another person – and in addition to confessing vertically to God, we have horizontal work to do with our people in our lives. There may be infrequent times when an attitude or action is not known to the person and to bring it up in an apology may actually cause more pain than to keep it between you and God. However, King David’s actions as recorded in II Samuel 11-12 had ramifications for many.

In II Samuel 2:4, we are reminded of David’s being God’s chosen one to be king of Judah. It was years earlier that God had revealed that choice to the prophet Samuel (I Samuel 16). In I Samuel 13:14, Samuel described David as a “man after His (the Lord’s) own heart. David was not actually crowned king until he was 30 years old.

Read David’s prayer in II Samuel 7:18-28 and comment on what kind of man David was.

Yet, even pillars of the faith have feet of clay – and are ultimately weak in the face of temptation.

Read II Samuel 11 and describe David’s sin.

Against whom did he sin?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

To whom did he confess? (See II Samuel 12:13 and Psalm 51) _____

In the context of this study on forgiveness, it is interesting to note that there is no record of any other confession about this incident nor is there an apology to the other two parties. In Psalm 51, David actually says to God, “Against you, and you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.” What **additional forgiveness steps** would have been appropriate?

Forms

Our Part and God's Part

We human beings have a tendency toward futile attempts to be independent and self-sufficient. Particularly in western culture, individualism is a strong value. In other cultures, mutual interdependence is more highly valued, and people probably have an easier time grasping the concepts of personal weakness and the necessity of support from each other and for divine help. We western Christians find the concepts of weakness and dependence distasteful. Seeing them as healthy traits, especially spiritually, is a challenge. God's word constantly reminds us of our need to depend on Him, of our helplessness. Knowing and believing this bring freedom and relief.

In our Christian walk, we must grasp the distinction between what God provides and what He asks us to do. The illustration of forms in concrete work provides a useful word picture. When a mason is planning to construct new steps at a house or pour concrete for a driveway, he first sets up forms with right angles and accurate measurement to provide an enclosure into which concrete can be poured to harden. These forms are sturdy and functional, but rough metal or wood with signs of wear. They are held together by joints, providing a framework.

Once set up, the wet concrete is poured in and allowed to dry. Without the forms, this wet, runny substance would spread and dry in a heap and not be contained in a functional way. The forms are then removed, leaving the finished step or driveway. They served a purpose, but the hardened concrete is the lasting substance that can withstand weight, use, weather, and time.



Our part in cooperating with God's powerful work and provision in our lives is comparable to these forms. We are asked to set up practices and disciplines that put us in the position to receive the substance of God's power and direction. Without them, He can offer His help but it will not be received and accepted.

Look up the following verses and write down the "form" that we are directed to set up.

1. Psalm 119:105, 130; Colossians 3:16 _____

List several things it can do (see II Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12)

2. Philippians 4:7 _____

3. Colossians 3:16

4. Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 18:20

5. Proverbs 27:17

6. Daniel 10:12

7. II Corinthians 10:5

8. Acts 13:2; 14:23

9. Psalm 119:9-11, 17; James 1:22-25, 4:17

10. Psalm 119:37; Philippians 4:8

11. I Corinthians 9:24-27; I Timothy 4:8

12. Others you can think of:

For thought and discussion in your group: think about and write out ideas to share, questions to ask

1. When looking at this list of “forms”, how do we prevent it from turning into a legalistic list of “Do’s and Don’t’s”? What is the role of the form? Does a form in itself have power?

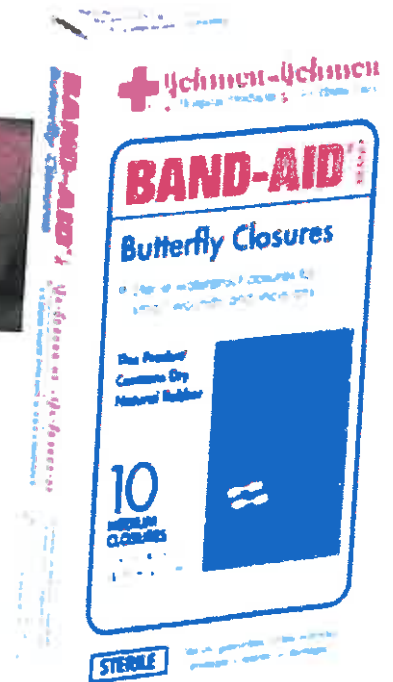
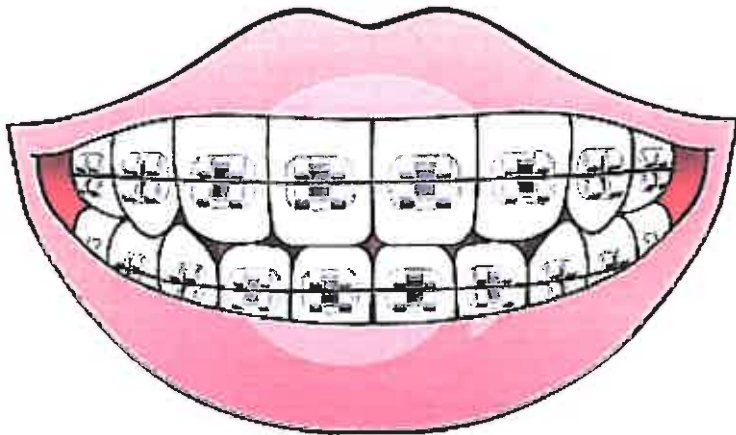
2. How does the discussion of form and substance apply to our study on forgiveness?

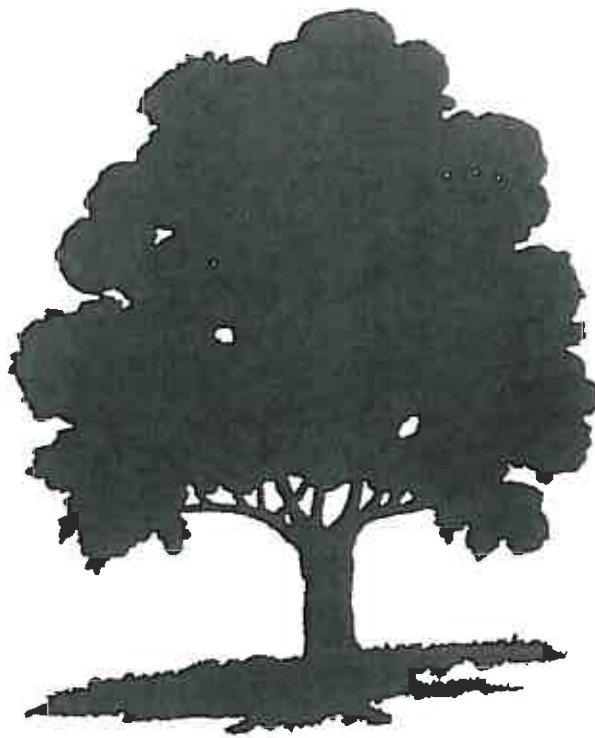
Give some examples of forms we might be called on the set up – both proactive and protective.

What do these images have in common?



What do these images have in common?





“And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him too for each day’s problems; live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the Lord and become strong and vigorous in the truth. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all He has done. Don’t let others spoil your faith and joy with their philosophies, their wrong ideas and answers based on men’s thought and ideas, instead of what Christ has said. For in Christ there is all of God in a human body; so you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest ruler over every other person.”

Colossians 2:6-10 (Living Bible)

If you forsake the Lord, “You will be like an oak with fading leaves, like a garden without water.” Isaiah 1:30

Righteous people are “the shoot I have planted.....They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord.” from Isaiah 60 and 61

“Blessed in the (wo)man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

***The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.
II Chronicles 16:9***