

Wednesday Word 8/12/2026

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

This week I don't have much of a story to illustrate what has been on my heart -I just want to share what is on my heart. I come from a family that is very good at holding grudges-and I mean good at holding them for a long time. People in my family would harbor bitterness toward other family members for decades over the smallest of issues. Unspoken and unresolved grudges seemed to be an ever-present component of my extended family culture.

My Uncle Roger (My dad's older brother), died suddenly and tragically in a boating accident in 2003. It was a very shocking situation and very hard on the family, especially my grandmother. Through his death, it did seem that so many grudges and hard feelings seemed to melt away between family members. Family began talking again and communicating almost like none of the issues happened in the first place.

I am not sure if any of you have experienced family dynamics such as these, but I find it fascinating how easily grudges and hard feelings can melt away, especially in hard times.

This really got me thinking about forgiveness. I know what it means to be upset with someone who has wronged me and struggled to forgive them and let that situation be resolved in my heart and spirit. However, when I turn that struggle to forgive and consider how easily and consistently our God forgives my sins and how he chooses to not hold a grudge against me even though I deserve it, it gives me an entire perspective shift toward my fellow man.

No matter who you are or what family or community you live in, you will have to be faced with the choice to forgive someone at some point in your life. It could very well be that they do not deserve your forgiveness. But if you think about it, you do not deserve God's forgiveness, but he offers it freely.

Let's prayerfully consider this week how we can live a lifestyle of forgiveness!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg