

Colossians 3:13 “Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

When my two oldest sons were about six and seven years old, we lived in an older home by the Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse in Sumner. This home was lath and plaster and had a big basement. The house had both charm and impractical design features which, if you lived in a depression-era home, you know what I mean. One of my favorite features of this home was the front screen door. It was not a vinyl storm door but a hand-crafted wood door with grooves around the perimeter that would hold the screen.

One summer when we were painting the house, I had to remove the screen from that door. When the paint was done, I worked to reinstall a new screen. It ended up being a very tedious and stressful task as the weather strip for the screen was a bit bigger than the groove. Long story short, it ended up taking an entire day and multiple trips to the hardware store to complete. As the day wound down, I finally was able to rehang the door and walk away from it.

Not 5 minutes later did my two young sons throw one of their action figures through the screen and completely ruin it. NOT FIVE MINUTES!!!! I couldn't believe it. I had spent all day on that door screen, and it was undone in a matter of moments.

Years later, I look back on that moment and laugh (During the moment I was irate). I realized that day that things were going to happen outside of my control and people close to me were going to do things that I cannot control. What I can control is my response and my attitude toward them going forward.

Satan loves to convince us that holding grudges and bitterness is somehow righteous-that we are bringing justice to that situation. All the while, we are the ones who lose because we lose relationship with those closest to us. I know I am not the only one who has fallen into this trap.

Relationships take work, cultivation, forgiveness and patience. Let's work to protect those relationships closest to us and honor God as we do.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg