

YOU GO FIRST

Dear Friend;

Anyone who has had a sibling or got caught fighting at school and was told to apologize, no doubt has said the words “I’ll apologize but he/she should go first”. Guilty or innocent, sooner or later we bring the “you go first” attitude into our relationships when there is a need to apologize. Why do we do this?

The biggest reason is perhaps that we do not like to accept the blame even when we know we are wrong. We are not that many weeks out of the Easter season. In truth, we need to carry the Easter season with us all year long! The two big important lessons of Easter are: Christ’s forgiveness and his resurrection. We can’t replicate his resurrection daily, but we can practice Christ-like forgiveness. Christ-like forgiveness involves love and sacrifice. Christ-like forgiveness involves taking the initiative to forgive someone.

In the past I have had people ask the question: “If someone hurts me, shouldn’t I wait for them to come and ask for my forgiveness?” The Bible clearly says it is our responsibility to take the initiative to speak with a person when they have hurt us. The Bible also says we are to take the initiative to speak with a person who we have hurt. Matthew 5:23 says if you go to prayer and remember that someone has something against you, stop praying and make an effort to reconcile. In addition to this, the Bible also says that if you have been hurt or offended by someone you are to forgive them whether they ask or not. The “you go first” attitude regarding forgiveness never solved anything.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Camie Montoya (liver cancer), Trish Dolejs (shut-in of the month), a family member who needs Jesus

Events: Communion on Sunday; Women’s Ministry Thursday, May 18, 3:00pm – Indoor Cleanup 6:00pm
\$5 Pizza night & meeting