

The Cross

Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 15:11-32.

B. All of us should be teachers, but we move from this to being spiritual fathers. (I Thessalonians 3:2, John 17:4)

C. There are three things that it cost the father of the prodigal to be a father.

II. Pain.

A. It is painful to let people go.

B. We travail until Christ is formed in our spiritual and real children. (Galatians 4:11, 19)

C. It is only going to get more painful.

D. There are far more red lights than green lights in the Bible.

III. Forgiveness.

A. God embraces us in forgiveness every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

B. The first thing Jesus said on the cross was "Father, forgive them."

C. God forgives seven times seventy. (Luke 17:3-5)

D. Bitterness is devastating.

E. We must forgive whether a person deserves it or not.

IV. Generosity.

A. We have sonship in Christ.

B. We are to buy the affections of our co-laborers. (Proverbs 11:24-25)

C. Tutors build schools; fathers build homes.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to recognize pain in the Christian life?

2. When have you found it difficult to forgive?

3. How can you maximize your generosity to those who do not necessarily deserve it?
