

The Principle of Receiving
March 2016 Fully Alive Study

Starters:

Write down:

1. Three things about myself that I don't like

2. Three circumstances in my life that I don't like

3. Three people that you don't like or have been annoying/hurtful to you. (use initials)

Keep these things in mind as we walk through this principle. We'll talk about practical ways to deal with these people and circumstances later.

Genesis 2:23-24 ~ "The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." NIV

At this point, Adam knew nothing about Eve, he only know his God was a good God. He received her because He loved his God.

We are called to receive one another.

- Romans 15:7~ *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." NIV*
- Romans 15:7~ *"So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!" MSG*
- Phillips translation~ *"so open your hearts to one another"*

The word for receive is *proslambano*

- To take to one's self
- To take by the hand in order to lead aside
- To take or receive into one's home

And why do we do this?

- Because it brings praise to our Father.
- We are also called to a higher purpose, to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Philippians 1:6 ~ *"being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* NIV

God brings people and circumstances into our lives to continue the good work in us. Without conflict, we may never address difficult areas in our lives.

The promise is that there will be peace on the other side of this process

Philippians 4:7 ~ *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* NIV

Philippians 4:7 ~ *"Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."* MSG

This is not something that can be done in the flesh. This is a "Spirit work". We submit and it brings praise to our Father.

Three main areas where we are called to practice this principle of receiving:

1. Receiving Ourselves

When we reject ourselves, we are telling God that He has bad judgment. In your homework is the handout, "Creating a Christian Identity". It talks about what God thinks of us and it is good.

Choice One: Reject Ourselves

- Listen to lies and experience bondage
- This is so damaging

Choice Two: Receive Ourselves

- As an act of our will, choose to believe what God says about you, leading to peace
- Receiving ourselves is a one-time event, as well as an ongoing process
- This next couple of weeks, our homework will help us to explore
- Renew our mind
 - Choose to speak truth
 - Easier as we do it day by day. One day, we will actually believe it!!!

Receiving our Circumstances-Two Choices.

Choice 1-Rejecting My Circumstances

- If I reject the circumstances, they are going to happen anyway.
- My response could be complaining, grumbling and stress.
- If we refuse to receive and somehow escape the circumstances, God may provide another set of circumstances to deal with our character.
- If I reject my circumstances, I will have bondage.

Choice 2-Accepting Our Circumstances

- Our other choice is to ask the question “What will my response be to this?”
- I can choose to believe that God is in control and that He will work all things together for His good.
- If I accept the circumstances, I will have freedom.
- A visual is reaching out and saying “Thank you for this package. It is wrapped in dark paper but it comes from Your hand and I receive it.”

Circumstances that we may need to receive:

- Aging
- Chronic Pain
- Job Situation
- Dealing with Family & Kids
- Others

2. Receiving Others

- The qualities in people that make us the most crazy are often there for a reason.
- God will use them to mold us, if we react to them correctly.
- People and circumstances are put in our lives for a reason.
- When I reject people and circumstances, I reject God. I’m telling Him I know what is best for me.

Tieback to Last Month’s Idols Teaching by Marsha Graeber:

When we decide, “I would be okay if _____ would change”, we have made the person our idol. Our focus is on them and their behavior. We are asked to just receive them, as they are.

- When we talk about receiving difficult people, we need to distinguish the difference between being difficult and being destructive.
- This is an area where getting Godly counsel is critical. We often are so tied into the person and their behaviors, that we don’t see things clearly.
- Is it possible to receive someone and still create distance between you and their sinful behavior?

Even bad can be used for constructive purposes.

- We will be able to comfort others with the comfort we have received.
- We will know God in a whole new way because of the continual running to Him.

Receiving Others-Two Choices

Option One: We can choose to not receive difficult people

- We will grumble, talk behind their backs, have imaginary conversations and be in bondage to them

Option Two: Choose to Receive Them

- We have limited energy each day. Why not use it for healthy thinking and behavior?

How Do We Do This?

2 Peter 1:3 ~ *“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.” NIV*

- Ask God to love them through us
- Serious, ongoing prayer
- In Gen. 2:23-24, we saw that Adam spoke his acceptance of Eve. There is something powerful about actually saying the words out loud

To receive someone, it is important to

- Go to God-This can only be done through the power of the Spirit
- Get Godly counsel to see what to do next
 - Have someone walk thru this with you, for encouragement, discernment and accountability.
 - Talk to a “Soul Friend.”
 - To learn more about “Soul Friends”, listen to Bill Ewing’s sermon on the Rimrock website, “ WWSD” on January 3, 2016
Link: <http://rimrockchurch.com/sermons>
- Forgiveness is almost always a part of receiving difficult people. We cannot receive someone until we have forgiven them. We need to untie ourselves from their behavior and then walk forward into receiving them.
- This will involve serious, ongoing prayer
- See Covenant of Receiving in handouts and walk through the steps
- Ask God to love the person through us. Ask Him for His creativity
- Genesis 2:23-24
 - We saw Adam speak his acceptance of Eve. There is something important about using words of acceptance
- God may ask us to reach out to the person or He may ask us to step back. Each case is so different and only our loving Abba knows what is best for us.

Moses recorded these words of God in Deuteronomy 30:15-20

“See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your

God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

- We have a choice to choose life or death
- It is how we are meant to operate. God designed us to live in this freedom
- This is tough stuff and can only be done through the Spirit. It is a battle, but a battle that is worth fighting.

The Principle of Receiving Homework

1. Listen to Bill Ewings, “The Principle of Receiving” on Rimrock’s website. The link is: <http://rimrockchurch.com/connect/to-adults/women/study-archives>
2. Read the CLM handout, “The Principle of Receiving”. Look up scripture references.
3. Have you ever changed your own behavior long term through condemning or rejecting yourself? What does the “I am bad self-talk” do to you?

4. Have you ever been truly accepted by someone? What emotions does that evoke for you?

5. How can we help the people in our lives (kids, grandkids, relatives, others....) learn to receive themselves?

6. Name three circumstances that you are having a hard time receiving. Take time to pray through this list. God may want you to expose why these areas are difficult and there may be areas of healing that He wants to deal with.

7. Choose to receive the circumstances as coming from God’s hand to conform you to the image of Christ. Here’s journaling space, if needed:

8. Name three or more people that you are having a hard time receiving.
9. As an act of your will, chose to receive these people, possibly using the attached ,
“Covenant of Receiving”.
10. Ask God to give you creative ways to reach out to these people, if that is His desire.
Below is journaling space for writing emotions after receiving them and ideas may
have for you to reach out.

11. Read through the handout, “Creating a Christian Identity”.
 - a. Make a dot next to areas you struggle with believing what God says about you.
 - b. From your marked list, star the top areas, about yourself, that you are having a hard time receiving as true.
 - c. Look up scriptures associated with those starred areas
 - d. Talk to God about what He says about you and where you may be off. Choose to believe what God has to say about you. Choose to receive yourself right where you are.

12. On Youtube, listen to the song “Who Am I” by Casting Crowns, which deals with your acceptance in Christ. Journal your thoughts.
 - a. A Good link is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU_rTX23V7Q