

**First Nazareth Baptist Church
P.E.A.C.E Life Management Ministry**



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." Galatians 5:22

29-year-old Clyde was excited to be assisting Mr. Jenkins with the Male Mentoring program. He had always respected Mr. Jenkins and viewed him as a surrogate father over the past 10 years. His own father walked out on the family when he was nine. Clyde now realized that his father was in no position to take care of his family all those years ago because of his alcoholism and inability to keep a job. But he saw first-hand how difficult it was for his mom to take care of him and his two younger brothers and frankly, he always felt as though he was missing out on much needed advice and direction. Clyde regretted many of the choices he'd made, including his decision to drop out of school, which cost him his scholarship, to pursue a business venture that quickly went sour. However, with Mr. Jenkins' guidance, he was able to get a solid job and return to school at night. Two years ago, his father came to him asking for his forgiveness. Although he no longer drinks, he is struggling to give up smoking, even though he has emphysema and was repeatedly advised to stop smoking. He was also just diagnosed with advanced stage liver disease. As a newly-wed who is anticipating the birth of his first child with his wife, Clyde worries that he won't know how to be a good father and blames his father for his own feelings of insecurity and self-doubt. He tells himself "I don't need my father to bring any of his negativity into our lives. I've got all the family I need in my church". He also believes that the only reason his father has asked for forgiveness is because he is dying.

1. What's the potential impact of unforgiveness in Clyde's life?
2. How can Clyde's unwillingness to forgive his father impact Clyde spiritually?
3. Should the reason for Clyde's father's request for forgiveness impact Clyde's decision to forgive? What's the main reason Clyde should forgive him?
4. How might Clyde's unwillingness to forgive his father impact his relationships with the boys he is mentoring?
5. How might this impact Clyde's relationship with his own child?