

Forgiving Others As God Has Forgiven You

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Luke 17:3-10

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

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Forgiveness is a key put-on for anger & bitterness! Eph 4:32

Difficult, even disciples stumbled Lk 17:3-10

Key to forgiveness is to understand God's forgiveness...

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

- A. God's nature is forgiving: Neh 9:16-17; Ps 86:5; Is 43:22-25
1. God forgives all types of sin (Ex 34:6-7; Ps 103:3, 10-12) except that of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit {Mt 12:22-32; Mk 3:20-30}
 2. God provided for forgiveness while you were still His enemy and before you were ready to ask for or receive forgiveness Ps 86:5; Rm 5:8-10
 3. God forgives out of HIS mercy and grace and NOT because YOU merit His forgiveness. Rm 5:6-8; Eph 2:4-7; Col 2;13-14
- B. When God forgives, He forgives completely
Psa 103:10-12; Jer 50:20; Rm 5:16-21; 8:1, 33-34; 1 Jn 1:9
- Some Amazing Truths:
When God forgives you, you are changed: 2 Co 5:17
When God forgives you, He no longer deals with you according to your sin
Psa 103:10
Instead He covers your sin and blots it out Ps 32:1; 51:9; Isa 43:25; 44:22
- When God forgives you, He no longer charges the guilt of your sin to your account
Psa 32:2; Rm 3:24-25; 4:8; 8:1; 2 Cor 5:19
- C. God's forgiveness cost you nothing (Eph 2:8-9), but it was very costly to God
Isa 53:4-12; Jn 3:16; Acts 20:28; Rm 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pt 1:17-19
- D. God does not withhold forgiveness when sins are confessed in a sincere, biblical manner
1 Jn 1:9

RESPONDING TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

Believers are to forgive others just as God in Christ has forgiven you Eph 4:32; Col 3:13

We are to forgive:

- Willingly
- No matter what the sin, no matter how severe
- On the basis of GRACE, not on the merit of the person to be forgiven
- With the expectation of a renewed relationship
- Even though it may be costly to you
- Completely and not use the sin against the forgiven

REMINDING OURSELVES ABOUT GOD'S PRINCIPLES OF FORGIVENESS:

- A. Forgiveness is an act of obedience to the Lord (Lk 17:3-10; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13) and must be granted from the heart (Mt 18:35).
- B. Forgiveness gives the offender what he needs rather than what he deserves (Psa 103:10; Lk 23:39-43; Rm 5:8).
- C. Forgiveness is the love of Jesus Christ in action and is a promise to:
1. Not keep a record of wrongs suffered 1 Co 13:5
 2. Not gossip about a person's sins to others Eph 4:29
 3. Not dwell on the offense yourself Php 4:8
 4. Restore fellowship with the forgiven as far as biblically possible
Rm 12:18; 2 Cor 2:6-8
- D. You can't love God without loving people (1 Jn 4:20-21) or forgiving

IMPLICATIONS

- A. Because you are commanded to forgive others (Mt 6:14-15; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13), you sin when you refuse to forgive them (Jms 4:17).
- B. You show ingratitude and lack of faith for God's merciful forgiveness towards you when you do not forgive others (Mt 18:21-35).
- C. God and your Father withholds His forgiveness of your everyday transgressions when you do not forgive others (Mt 6:14-15); Mk 11:25-26).

Forgiveness depends upon what YOU worship!

Study each passage carefully. Ask yourself, "are there any areas I have failed to forgive others the way God has forgiven me?"