

FORGIVENESS BASICS

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Introduction

1. This Topic Deserves You Careful Attention

- A. Mankind's greatest _____ is forgiveness (Romans 6:23)
- B. Forgiveness is necessary for _____ (Colossians 2:13)
- C. Christ followers are commanded to forgive _____ in the same way God has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32)
- D. Seeking and _____ forgiveness is a prerequisite to mutual love, the strongest argument for the Christian faith (John 13: 35)
- E. Unreconciled relationships between Christians _____ evangelism and robs churches of a positive community witness

2. What Forgiveness is Not

- A. A _____ (Luke 17:3-10)
 - 1) Forgiveness is to be granted when a sinner repents, regardless of how you feel at the time (v.3)
 - 2) Forgiveness is to be granted repeatedly on the same day if a sinner repeatedly professes repentance (v. 4)
 - 3) Forgiveness, at its root, is a matter of obedience (vv.5-10)
- B. _____
 - 1) There is no command in the Bible telling us to forget before we forgive
 - 2) There is no Scriptural support for the statement, "If you haven't forgotten, you haven't forgiven."
 - 3) Forgetting is a frequent byproduct of granting forgiveness, but not always
 - 4) References to God forgetting are statements of God promising not to remember our sins against us (Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34)
- C. _____ sin
 - 1) Excusing is a form of minimizing sin, of not taking sin seriously
 - 2) Excusing is calling sin something other than what God calls it

3. What It Means to Forgive

A. Definition: "Forgiveness is a lifting of the charge of _____ from another, a formal declaration of that fact and a promise, both made and kept, never to remember the wrong against him in the future."

(Adams, The Theology of Christian Counseling)

B. To pass over an _____ and free the offender from the guilt of it.

C. To give up your right to _____

D. "I forgive you" is a _____ that:

- 1) I will not use this against you in the future
- 2) I will not talk to others about this in the future to use it against you
- 3) I will not dwell on it myself

4. When to Grant Forgiveness

A. When there is _____ (Luke 17:3)

B. Every time there is a _____ of repentance (Matthew 18:21-22)

5. Forgiveness Distinctions

A. The Bible _____ both judicial forgiveness and parental forgiveness

B. Forgiveness for our sins is available, but it is ___ automatic (Ps. 86:5; Rom. 10:9,10)

C. Forgiven people (Christians) need _____ forgiveness (Mt. 6:12b-15; 1 John 1:9)

D. God expects _____ people to be forgiving people (Mt. 18:21-35)

E. Forgiving people choose to _____ on how much they have been forgiven, rather than on how much they have been sinned against.

Conclusion