

Forgiving Others

Matthew 18:21 - 35

I. Introduction

II. Those Who Have Been Forgiven Are to Live a Lifestyle of Forgiving Others

A. Why we are to forgive others

Colossians 3:12 – 13 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Ephesians 4:31 – 32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 6:11 – 12 Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

B. How we are to forgive others

1. forgiving others is required of every Christian
2. forgiving others is God-centered not me-centered
3. forgiving others is to be from the heart
 - a. dispositional forgiveness

Mark 11:25 “And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

Proverbs 19:11 Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

b. transactional forgiveness

Luke 17:3 “Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him...”

c. what forgiveness is and isn't

1) it isn't ignoring or tolerating others' sin

2) it isn't rationalizing away why somebody hurt you

3) it isn't a feeling

4) forgiveness - choosing to accept and bear the consequences of someone else's sin against you while not holding that sin against them

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

4. choosing to forgive involves

a. trusting God's commands

b. trusting God's sovereignty

Genesis 50:16 – 21 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died, ‘Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

c. trusting God's power and grace to help you

III. Conclusion