

“Forgiveness”

Part II

Adapted by: Michael R. Hughes

Text: Matthew 6:9-15

Theme: To teach on the subject of forgiveness.

Introduction:

1. This is a continuation of the lesson of the same title, labeled Part I.
2. Review Part I.

Discussion: (cont'd)

- II. Needing and extending forgiveness (cont'd):
 - A. (see the first lesson)
 - B. God has told us how to deal with each other in needing and extending forgiveness.
 1. The offender needing forgiveness - Matthew 5:23,24.
 - a. The offender has the responsibility for taking action to receive forgiveness.
 - b. This also shows the seriousness with which God looks at these matters.
 - c. We should come before the one whom we have offended as we would come before God: - sorry, penitent, and humble - II Corinthians 7:10; Acts 2:37; Luke 18:14.

- 1) Be strong, admit the wrong. Do not play it down.
 - 2) Do not apologize and then take it right back: "*I'm sorry, but -*"
 - 3) You cannot say, "*If I have sinned against you....*" when it is known sin! - Psalm 109:12 is only for hidden or unknown sins.
2. The offended must be willing to forgive - Matthew 18:15-17.
- a. The offended also has a responsibility to go to the offender- *Go and show or tell...*
 - 1) The person may not actually know he/she has offended you! Has it ever happened to you?
 - 2) You cannot do right if you hold it against them, but do not *go and show* them.
 - b. Putting the responsibility to *go and show* them should help eliminate being offended over petty matters.
 - 1) Helping one to "*see*" the offense will aid in preventing repetition of the offense.
 - 2) If not serious enough to *go and show*, do not hold it against them and do not go and tell others about it as though you consider it an offense.
 - c. It is wrong not to go if it is a serious sin - Galatians 6:1,2; James 5:19,20.
 - d. The procedure is outlined and we must follow it or sin ourselves!
 - e. The attitude of going to another must include:
 - 1) Love - Proverbs 10:12.
 - 2) Gentleness - Galatians 6:1.
 - 3) Humility - II Timothy 2:25.
 - 4) Many things are not worked out because of the approach we take.
 - 5) Often, it is not what is said as much as how it is said.

III. We must forgive.

- A. "*As Christ forgave you...*" Colossians 3:12,13.

1. This is part of the *new man* the Christian. These things must be *put on*.
2. This is a part of being GOD-like and Christ-like!
- B. If we expect to be forgiven, we must forgive - Matthew 6:14,15; Mark 11:25,26.
- C. Remember Paul in II Timothy 4:7,8; compare with verse 16. Ready to die; ready to forgive!
- D. We must show an attitude of willing forgiveness and work to effect a reconciliation. Romans 12:18, “.....as much as depends on you,” is as much as you can do sometimes.
 1. The unforgiving servant is condemned - Matthew 18:23-25! This parable is given in response to Peter’s question as to how many times we must forgive - vv.21,22.
 - a. The King is God or Christ; the servants, you and me.
 - b. \$10,000 equals a debt impossible to repay; \$17.00 equals a minor debt or offense.
 - c. Mercy from the King equals salvation, forgiveness; the wicked servant was unforgiving.
 2. As the wicked, unforgiving servant was punished, so will God treat us if we do not “*from the heart... forgive his brother his trespasses*” -v.35.

IV. The extent of forgiveness.

- A. “*even as Christ ...from the heart...*” Colossians 3:12,13; Matthew 18:35.
 1. “*...as Christ...as God...forgave you...*” Ephesians 4:32. Forgive others in the manner God forgives us!
 - a. Means forgiving and forgetting! Our sins are *blotted out by God* Acts 3:19; Hebrews 8:12. They are remembered no more.
 - b. How would we like God to bring up every sin of the past that we have committed and been forgiven of? NO? Neither can we do that to brethren.
 - 1) We cannot say “*I forgive, but I’ll get even. Then I’ll forget.*”

- 2) There can be no vengeance with forgiveness - Romans 12:8; 12:17-21.
 2. If it is not “*as Christ and God*” and “*from the heart*,” there is no real forgiveness.
 - B. Forgiveness must be as continuous as repentance of the offender - Matthew 18:21,22; Luke 17:3,4.
 1. God does not just forgive us once or twice, he keeps on forgiving - I John 1:7,9; Hebrews 10:25.
 2. So must it be with ourselves towards others: 70x7, or as often as he says, “I repent.”
 3. God does not ask us to do more than he will do, nor to do less.
- V. Repentance and forgiveness-
- A. Where there is no real repentance, there can be no real forgiveness - Luke 17:3,4; 13:3,5; Acts 7:30,31.
 1. Forgiveness “*as God forgave us*” is seen in Acts 2:38; 8:22; I John 1:8,9; requiring repentance and confession.
 2. Sincere repentance motivates forgiveness! When one hears you say, “*I’m truly sorry*” there is an obligation to forgive and most will really want to forgive. Remember 1.,b in the introduction to this lesson.
 3. God is willing to forgive when we come to him in his way.
 - a. Remember Christ’s prayer on the cross - Luke 23:24.
 - b. In Acts 2:22 Peter says that they are still guilty, unforgiven.
 - c. In Acts 2:38, they were given the manner by which they could be forgiven.
 - d. True forgiveness can only come through doing what God says in the way he says.
 - B. Time does not erase the guilt of sins!-Romans 4:12, II Corinthians 5:10.
 1. God does not forget what is not forgiven! We must follow God’s plan no matter what the sin or how long ago the transgression.
 2. There is no “*side door, back pew repentance*” that God will accept.

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- a. Some will try to sneak back into God's grace a little bit at a time, without showing any true sorrow for repentance of sins.
 - b. True repentance requires godly sorrow expressed - II Corinthians 7:10; I John 1:9.
 - c. True repentance also requires fruit to be demonstrated - Matthew 3:8 Acts 26:20.

Conclusion:

1. We all need forgiveness and all must be forgiving.
2. We must all be God-like in our forgiveness.
3. To do that we must know his character and teaching from the scriptures.
4. Our own forgiveness and eternal destiny depend as much on this as anything.
5. We must seek to avoid needing forgiveness as much as possible. We should also avoid requiring others to seek forgiveness from us unnecessarily.
6. Remember what to do if you offend someone or you are offended.
 - a. Repent and forgive fully as often as necessary, “*as GOD...forgave you.*”
 - b. Love and forgiveness go hand in hand both for the offended and the offender- John 13:34,35.

Invitation:**Bibliography:**

This sermon is part of a larger sermon that was originally prepared by Ted J. Clark.