

The One Another's - Week #7
Matthew 18:21-35; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32
Forgive One Another

Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Matthew 18:21–35 (NIV)

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”
²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Forgiveness IS NOT:

- Forgetting the past.
- Minimizing sin.

- Ignoring justice.
- Restoring trust.

Forgiveness IS a choice to stop sipping the poison.

1. Remember what you've been forgiven.

- We struggle to forgive when we forget about the King in our stories.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- Have you received the King's forgiveness?

2. Identify the debtor.

Do you find yourself...

- Constantly dwelling on an incident that happened in the past?
- Clinching your jaw or being easily annoyed by someone?
- Seeking or dreaming of revenge?
- Constantly keeping score of what someone owes you?
- Wanting something bad to happen to somebody?
- Secretly celebrating when something bad happens?
- Getting upset when they succeed?

3. Define the debt.

- Forgiveness always involves specifics.

"When we offer forgiveness to those who have no excuse—and for things most of the world would consider unforgivable—we become most like Jesus." - Larry Osborne

4. Cancel the full amount.

“I pray softly to Jesus. I don’t want this! You have to help me. Then I realize, ‘Forgiveness is not an emotion. It is an act of the will.’ The feeling is not there but I can move my hand. Almost mechanically I place my hand in his. And then something extraordinary happens. I suddenly feel a warm wave through my body. From my shoulder, through my arm, to our hands. I have to cry, ‘I forgive you brother, with all my heart.’ There we stood. The camp guard and the prisoner. For a long time we held hands. And never before have I experienced the love of God so deeply.” – Corrie ten Boom

- Bitterness and forgiveness both have a cost.

“...forgiveness means the cost of the wrong moves from the perpetrator to you, and you bear it. Forgiveness, then, is a form of voluntary suffering. In forgiving, rather than retaliating, you make a choice to bear the cost.” – Tim Keller, *Forgive*.

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.” – Lewis B. Smedes

5. Close the account.

“Imagine a bell tower. When someone hurts you, you hear the bell ring. Ding/ dong. Ding/ dong. And often we keep pulling on the rope for a long time so we keep hearing the bell. Only when we let go of the rope will the bell stop. But it’s also true that when we let go of the rope, the bell doesn’t stop right away. It will continue to chime for a while. Until we hear the last dong. It is the same with forgiveness. As long as we keep pulling on the rope, the pain will remain palpable. When we forgive, we must let go. That doesn’t mean it’s right away that the pain is over, but it will quiet down at some point.” – Corrie ten Boom

- Forgiveness is letting go of the rope!