

# FORGIVENESS

## FAMILY AND MINISTRY: LESSONS AT HOME PART IX

*"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

*~ Ephesians 4:32*

### 1. Lesson You Should Be Learning at Home: Forgiveness

- a. Lessons at home ... for when things go wrong.
  - i. Sin is not a failure of family. Family created to respond to sin in love & grace
  - ii. Family does not require perfect people, but it does require forgiveness.
- b. These lessons speak to our ministry of reconciliation/restoration – Gal 6:1-2, 2Co 5:18
- c. J. Vernon McGee said, 2 things you don't hear in churches:
  - i. 1) People admitting error and asking forgiveness – see 2 Cor 7:9
  - ii. 2) People actually forgiving them – see 2 Cor 2:7-11

### 2. Forgiveness Flaws

- a. An offense (sin) incurs debt, claim of injustice, call for payment, punishment, restitution.
  - i. Forgiveness ~*def.* To grant pardon; to remit, remove, release, free from a debt.
  - ii. Forgiveness thinks and desires no evil, revenge, ill will in the face of an offense
  - iii. 2Sa 12:13, 19:19, Ps 25:7,32:1, 79:8, 85:2-3, 103:12, Isa 38:17,43:25; Mic 7:19
- b. Not earned – Requiring payment is not forgiveness → Rom 4:4, 6:23 – Exo 10:17-18
- c. Not deserved – *"They don't deserve it."* None do. It is asked for b/c it can only be given
- d. Not a feeling – it is a decision to offer grace instead of demanding justice. Ro 3:25, 5:21
- e. Not forgetting – *"forgive and forget"* you may remember, but remember you forgave, too
- f. Not limited – Christ died for all sins: Col 2:13 – unforgiveness a sin Mt 18:35, Lk 17:3-4
- g. Not accepting sin – It removes the penalty of sin; it does not redefine it. 1 Cor 8:12
- h. Not ignoring consequences – sin hurts and damages; unpunished sin still has bad effects.
- i. Not the same as before – Trust/reconciliation need forgive, but aren't the same. 2Co 5:19
- j. Not only for the offender – it is also for the offended, else sin will destroy your heart.
  - i. Love cannot grow where a grudge, secret malice, resentment live.

### 3. Forgive for Christ's Sake

- a. God is just. The Bible can teach not to forgive: Ps 109:14, Isa 2:9 – but not under grace.
- b. We forgive not to be forgiven – Mt 6:12-15; we forgive for Christ's sake – Eph 4:31-32
- c. Forgiveness is justified: by atonement, by we were given it – Lev 19:17-18, 1Cor 4:7
- d. When you forgive for Christ's sake you honor God's grace Eph 1:7, Col 1:14, 2:13-14
- e. When justice by the law is demanded, then Christ died in vain – Gal 2:20-21
- f. Satan demands justice, today. Christ is in the way of the sinner, today, by the cross.
- g. Why people fail to forgive? Are they more righteous than God? b/c of hate, revenge, sin.
- h. *'I am not the judge. I sin, too. Rom 5:8. I'm dead. Christ loved. 2Co 5:14. Eph 4:27-32.'*

### 4. Forgiveness in Your Home

- a. Forgiveness keeps the door open for love. Without it love is hindered. Family suffers.
- b. Forgiveness, comforting (strengthening) weak, showing love breeds reconciliation
- c. Not forgiving may be worse than the original sin, b/c it multiplies the offense.
- d. *"They owe me an apology"* – Yes they do, and what would grace do? Be bitter? Angry?
  - i. Forbear and forgive through Christ to confirm your love, God's love - Col 3:13-15