

A Christian's Forgiveness

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 3:12-13

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"Christians are the most forgiven people in the world

Therefore, we should be the most forgiving people in the world" ~ Ken Sande

The Danger of Unforgiveness

Mat 6:12, 14-15; Mk 11:25 if you do not forgive others...

We are called to be Forgiving People!

Col 3:13 ~ Eph 4:32

A. You Can't Do it Alone

- Forgiveness, like the Gospel comes from God, not from inside

B. To forgive, you must understand the nature of forgiveness:

- Apologizing is NOT forgiving! In Biblical forgiveness:
 - ▶ wrongdoer confesses sin - acknowledges hurt Sin is not brushed off!
 - ▶ wrongdoer asks for forgiveness Someone has to pay, sinner can't
 - ▶ offended one grants forgiveness Payment is made by offended one
 - ▶ Gospel: God had Christ pay penalty for OUR sin we couldn't pay

C. Biblical Forgiveness is a Decision (not a feeling) to:

1. Release the offender from the guilt of the sin. Isa 53:5; 1 Pt 2:24
2. Refuse to bring up offense to use against the offender Heb 8:12; 10:17; Rm 8:1
3. Refuse to think about the offense Psa 103:12
4. Refuse to talk to others about the offense Phil 4:8
5. Be reconciled such that relationship is better than before Eph 2:14-16; Lk 6:27-28

D. Biblical Forgiveness is a Costly and Complete

2 Cor 5:21; Is 43:25; 55:7

God paid the ultimate price for YOUR sin!

God forgives ALL our sins, not just SOME!

E. Biblical Forgiveness is Undeserved

Eph 2:8-9

beware of Satan's lie: they don't deserve forgiveness...

F. Biblical Forgiveness is Final

Heb 10:17

God doesn't revoke our forgiveness when we sin again

G. To forgive, you must keep a Biblical perspective of forgiveness:

1. Your motive in forgiving should be to glorify God who forgave you
Did God save you to be unforgiving, He saved you to glorify Him 1 Cor 10:31; Eph 1:7,12
2. Remember HOW, and HOW MUCH God has forgiven you in Christ! Mt 18:35
God has the movie of your life – but He has forgiven you. Heb 10:10, 16,17...
Think often on the parable of the unforgiving servant: Mt 18:21-35
3. Remember God is sovereign and He is the Righteous Judge Gen 50:19-20
Many painful things happen in this Fallen world – but God is sovereign
Remember Joseph's (sold into slavery by his own brothers!) attitude Gen 50:19-20
Could God be using this horrible wrong to conform YOU into Christ? Rom 8:28-29
4. Remember to have compassion on the other person – they are a fellow sinner in need of God's grace – you may be that ambassador of God's Grace
Put Offs... anger, wrath, malice, etc. Col 3:8, lies Col 3:9
Put Ons: compassionate hearts, kindness, forbearance (like Christ towards you) Col 3:12-13
But they don't deserve... neither did you, but you are now an ambassador: 2 Cor 5:18
Remember, whatever you do... do it all for the glory of God, that includes:
being sinned against and forgiving others to show God's character

Questions to Think About:

- How does simply apologizing ("I'm sorry") fall short of forgiveness? How should that change your relationships?
- Is forgiveness unconditional? What Scriptures support your answer?
- Does forgiving someone mean that you completely trust them? What does it take to restore trust? How does forgiveness, restoration and trust differ?
- Can you forgive someone before God in your heart before they repent? What would that look like? Should you forgive someone if they haven't repented?
- Is it ever right to distance yourself from a person who has offended you, rather than trying to work things out? If so, what?

Resources:

Peacemaker, Ken Sande 978-0801064852

www.hispeace.net – excellent resources on peacemaking & forgiveness

From Forgiveness to Forgiving, Jay Adams 978-1879737129

http://rickthomas.net/?s=forgive - some great resources from a biblical counselor who forgave his brother's murderer