

“Forgiving One Another”

Eph. 4:32

Introduction:

- A. How would life be without forgiveness — both human and divine?
 - 1. Without it there would be no Christians (Acts 2:38 - NIV).
 - 2. Without it there could be no close relationships.
- B. Our study will concentrate on three aspects of “forgiving one another.”

Discussion:

II. The Meaning of Forgiving One Another.

- A. The basic meaning is “release” or “let go” (Thayer, Strong).
 - 1. Like releasing a debt (Matt. 6:12; Luke 11:4).
 - 2. Like removing a lien on property.
- B. The practical meaning is seen from parallel expressions.
 - 1. “Remission (forgiveness) of sins” (Acts 2:38).
 - 2. “Sins blotted out” (Acts 3:19).
 - 3. “Wash away your sins” (Acts 22:16).
 - 4. “Remember no more” (Heb. 10:17,18).
- C. Forgiveness is complete — no degrees.

III. The Need to Forgive One Another.

- A. All sins offend God, most offend others.
- B. Our own forgiveness depends on it. (Matt. 6:14,15; 18:21-35).
(Barnes compares money in parable as \$15 versus \$15 million)

IV. The Conditions for Forgiving One Another.

- A. Unconditional forgiveness is a product of misguided idealism.
 - 1. Does not hold one responsible for actions.
 - 2. The banner placed in Kentucky school after shooting (Reader’s Digest)
 - 3. Bought into by many in and out of the church.
- B. Biblical forgiveness requires repentance by the offender.
 - 1. Not talking about mere mistakes or annoyances - but real sins.
 - 2. God’s forgiveness is conditional (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 John 1:9).
Note: Lord’s prayer in Lk. 23:34 note answered without repentance (Acts 2:36-38).
 - 3. Our forgiveness also conditional (Luke 17:3,4; Matt. 18:15-18).
- C. Biblical forgiveness involves effort by the offended.
 - 1. As the offended party, God spares no effort in bringing offenders to repentance.
 - 2. As the offended party, we must do all we can to bring offender to repentance.

Conclusion:

- A. To forgive without repentance minimizes the seriousness of sin.
- B. To fail to forgive after repentance also minimizes the seriousness of sin.