

Sermon Notes

The Freedom of Forgiving Others Ephesians 4:30-32

Ephesians 4:30

- 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Ephesians 4:31-32

Matthew 18:21-27

- 1 John 1:7,9, Colossians 2:13-14, Hebrews 10:22
- “Everyone loves the idea of forgiveness...until they have something to forgive.” –C.S. Lewis

Matthew 18:28-35

The sin of Unforgiveness needs to be taken very seriously

- Matthew 6:12-14, Hebrews 12:15, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, Mark 11:25

Why do I have to forgive?

1. Forgiveness is a command
 - Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12
2. Forgiveness makes us more Christ like
3. Forgiveness opens to doors to allow God to work in more deeply in our lives
4. Forgiveness brings freedom and joy

Forgiveness is not...

- Saying what they did was ok or was not evil.
- Removing the consequences
- Saying that you will not still hurt
- The same as reconciliation
- Saying you have to trust them again - John 2:24

Forgiveness is

- “Forgiveness is something that we do in our hearts; we release someone from a debt that they owe us. We write off the person's debt, and she no longer owes us. We no longer condemn her. She is clean. Only one party is needed for forgiveness: me. The person who owes me a debt does not have to ask my forgiveness. It is a work of grace in my heart.” — Henry Cloud, Boundaries

- **How do we forgive others?**
- Believe that through God's power you can forgive
- Philippians 2:13, Luke 23:33-34
- Acknowledge what you are forgiving
- Forgive them and entrust them to God's Justice
- Forgiveness is sending them to a higher court.
- Romans 12:19, James 4:12
- Stand firm in your forgiveness
- Ephesians 6:11, 2 Corinthians 10:5
- Love them as Christ loves
- Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:15,17,19

Prayer for forgiving others

Holy Spirit please show me any area of my heart where I have unforgiveness towards another. Is there someone I need to forgive?

Father I confess to you the sin of unforgiveness. I ask you to forgive me for bitterness, resentment and offenses that I have been holding against _____.

Father I forgive _____ for _____, _____, _____ (list sins and hurts).

I release all these wounds and emotions to you. Father I release all feelings of anger, bitterness and resentment. I leave _____ in your hands.

Fill me with your love for _____. I pray blessing and your favor over them.