

## LAF #3 – FORGIVENESS

John 13:34,35; Ps. 130:3,4; Eph 4:32; Luke 6:37,38

05/15/2022

Sunday a.m.

### SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

### SLIDE 2 – LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, & FORGIVENESS

- Christ followers/Hillsiders minimal guarantee:
  - **LOVE** – unconditional, w/o strings ‘love as a choice’ (vs. b/c we feel it); in every circumstance, no exceptions
  - **ACCEPTANCE** – you will be received with love, dignity, & grace
  - **FORGIVENESS** – no matter how you’ve sinned/fallen, God’s forgiveness is available for the asking
- LAF Book – Jerry Cook – formative & foundational for my Christ-following life

### SLIDE 3 – LOVE ≠ LICENSE

### SLIDE 4 – ACCEPTANCE ≠ AGREEMENT

### SLIDE 5 – FORGIVENESS ≠ COMPROMISE

### SLIDE 6 – JOHN 13:34,35

### SLIDE 7 – LOVE ONE ANOTHER \*A NEW COMMANDMENT

- John 13 – Last Supper – Christ issues His New Commandment – BIG DEAL
  - Love one another – as I have loved you, you **MUST** love one another
  - **BY THIS** everyone will know you are My disciples

### SLIDES, 8,9 – PSALM 130:3,4; EPHESIANS 4:32

### SLIDE 10 – GOD FORGIVES – PS 130:3,4

- God provides a way for us to be made right before Him; w/o having to earn our way (back) into His favor;
  - O.T. – Sacrificial system; N.T. – Jesus’ death/sacrifice for sin
  - OT – sin/guilt of individual on the animal; NT – sin/guilt on Christ for us
- Unique manner of dealing w/our sin & our justification → no one like our God

### SLIDE 11 – FORGIVE EACH OTHER – EPH 4:32

- Ephesian interpersonal actions– “be kind & compassionate to each other”
  - Kind – love in action; compassion – tender-hearted; consider them
- Standard? In the same way/manner God forgives us, in/through Christ
  - This is love-in-action; this is supernatural; this is Christ-following
  - How are we to do this? How do we get to this kind of behavior?

### SLIDE 12 – FORGIVENESS IS A DECISION

- Forgiveness = decision/not an emotion
  - We don't forgive with our memory/emotions – but w/our will/choices
  - Cognitive choice not to be in the revenge business
  - Frees me to love others & let God be God – let Him handle it
  - Turns person over to God for His final say →
- Forgive = releasing someone from personal judgment; won't act as judge
  - Not about condoning/agreeing w/behavior; no guilty verdict from me
  - If/when I 'play God' & need to pronounce people 'guilty,' at that moment I come under God's judgment for my own sins/wrongs: **WHY?**
    - **Romans 12:19 – It is Mine to avenge; I will repay...**

### SLIDES 13,14 – LUKE 6:37,38

#### SLIDE 15 – SAME SAME

- When I play God & judge/condemn/proclaim guilt (I'm the punisher) THEN God will use the same measure/standard for me
- The same way I forgive others, God will forgive me – SAME SAME
  - For me to experience God's forgiveness, I need to forgive
  - **Matthew 6:14,15** – *if you forgive, you're forgiven... if not, you're not*

#### SLIDE 16 – FORGIVENESS ISN'T:

- **Forgiveness** ≠ forgetting – that is denial, avoidance, unrealistic
- **Forgiveness** ≠ feeling better/ok after its done – some things were/are/will be painful no matter what, no matter how much time passes
- **Forgiveness** ≠ re-engaging in same relationship w/individual you're extending forgiveness to; it's ok to have strong boundary & simultaneously forgive while not trusting a person or giving them the same 'stick' to hit you with
  - Some people are NOT ok to engage with → keep distance
- **Forgiveness** ≠ compromise/condoning wrong behavior; it doesn't deal w/guilt or innocence; JUSTICE does.
  - **Forgiveness** doesn't make what they did/what happened ok

#### SLIDE 17 – LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, FORGIVENESS

- When this characterizes our lives & Hillside (WE ARE Hillside), then God will send people our way that He wants to heal, restore, make whole
- He'll do the work of salvation, healing, transformation, THROUGH us & our LAF

#### SLIDE 18 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

- What do we take away as the 'point'? Life application?
- What does it look like, lived out, to FORGIVE people in this way?
- Who do I need to ASK for forgiveness? Who do I need to forgive?

**SLIDE 19 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27**

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace.” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*

**SLIDE 20 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE**

- Shaun & Patty McConnell – by the trellis