

## Lesson 12 | UNDERSTANDING & APPLYING FORGIVENESS

**REVIEW:** Christian forgiveness is rooted in the **gospel** - Ephesians 4:32

**REVIEW:** Christian forgiveness means that I do not hold your sin against you - Matthew 18:23-35

**REVIEW:** Forgiveness is not dependent on **repentance**.

**IMPORTANT:** **Reconciliation** demands repentance.

### A PRIMER ON BIBLICAL REPENTANCE

**#1:** Biblical repentance results in a change from disobedience to biblically obedient behavior – **Psalm 51:12-13**

**#2:** Biblical repentance acknowledges sin and takes **personal** responsibility for it - **1 John 1:8-10**

**#3:** Biblical repentance results from a sorrow for sins committed against God and others - **Psalm 38:17**

**#4:** Biblical repentance results in a broken (**sorrowful** for the sin) and contrite heart (**completely** putting away or crushing any previous reliance on self) – **James 4:8-10**

**#5:** Biblical repentance moves past sins, since these reminders themselves often provide temptations to sin – **Acts 18:18-19**

### A PRIMER ON BIBLICAL CONFESSION

**#1:** You are to confess sins to God in all aspects of thought, word, and action – **1 John 1:9**

**#2:** Confess your sins to those against whom you have sinned – **James 5:16**

PRACTICALLY: Do not **accuse** or judge or bring up the other parties failure – **Matthew 7:5**

PRACTICALLY: Do not give **excuses**. Biblical repentance allows no justification of or excuses for sin – **1 Samuel 15:13-15**

PRACTICALLY: Do not stop at expressing your **feelings** (i.e. I'm sorry). When seeking forgiveness specifically state your sin and the heart behind it – **Ephesians 4:15**

## HOW TO ACTUALLY RESTORE RELATIONSHIP

**#1:** Biblical **restitution** should be made possible whenever possible (as a fruit of repentance not the demands of the offended party) – **Luke 19:8-10**

**#2:** A restored relationship may take time, depending on the **severity** of the offense. Genuine repentance is willing to endure the broken relationship as a consequence for sin – **Psalm 51:4**

**#3:** Some sin is so **painful**, the relationship may never be restored to what it was before the offense was committed - **Proverbs 6:32-35**

**#4:** Expecting to never be hurt or sinned against is not applying the gospel to that relationship – **Luke 17:4**

**#5:** Whether you are the offending or offended party, be willing to apply God's **grace** & **truth** as you move towards reconciliation