

Foundations Lesson 12

INTERPERSONAL PROBLEMS (PART 1)

Outline

- The importance of forgiveness to the life of the Church
- Define forgiveness
- Discuss misconceptions
- You can forgive!

1. The Importance of forgiveness to the life of the Church

- God does not _____ unforgiveness amongst the community of His people. **Matt 6:14-15**
- If you do not biblically _____ others, you will not be forgiven by God. **Matt 6:14-15**
- When we _____ unforgiveness we sin against the body of Christ and open a door for Satan to potentially _____ the church through gossip and other evils. **2 Corinth 2:3-11**
- We must _____ forgiveness in our community if we do not want to the Lord to resist us. **Matt 18:21-35**
- Without forgiveness it is _____ to maintain the unity if the Spirit. **Eph 4: 32**

2. Forgiveness Defined

a. Legal aspect of our forgiveness

Forgiveness assumes a _____ or _____ is due. It assumes a wrong has been committed that has broken communion. It assumes an offense or hurt where reconciliation is necessary. **Rom 5:10-11**

- The scriptures teach the payment for sin is death. God sent Jesus into the world to be our Passover, to _____ or give us a right standing before God. **Rom 4:1-7**
- So, legally, when God forgives, it is _____ and irrevocable. This refers to the believer's _____ in Christ. **Col 2:13-14**

b. Relational aspect of forgiveness

- Forgiveness is a character attribute of God; it is His nature to forgive sins. **Psalm 86:5**
- Forgiveness is an expression of God's _____ for sinners. **Ex 34:7**
- We are to forgive others as _____ has forgiven us. **Col 3:12-13**
- Forgiveness means you do not hold _____ against the person/s who hurt you. You move _____ the person, instead of _____ from them. **Eph 4:32**
- Relationally, God will _____ a believer who practices forgiveness.

Clarifying misconceptions about forgiveness

- I forgave, I said I was sorry T or F [What is the issue?](#)
- I am a naturally forgiving person T or F
- I never had to practice forgiveness T or F
- I am not obligated to forgive unless a person asks for my forgiveness. T or F
- If I do not forgive it means I am unsaved. T or F
- I must keep forgiving, regardless how often I am sinned against. T or F
- If I truly forgave, I should never bring it up again. T or F
- I forgave, I just do not talk to them anymore T or F
- I forgave, but there are consequences that need addressing T or F
- Unwillingness to forgive and struggling to forgive are not the same thing. T or F
- I cannot learn to forgive; it is too hard. T or F

You can forgive!

- God has legally forgiven all your sin past, present and future! What a great motivation to forgive others! **Col 2:13**

- God has enabled all believers to forgive by giving them His holy Spirit. **Rom 5: 3-5**
- Remember, forgiveness is God's antidote to keep us from becoming angry, bitter, and resentful. **Eph 4:32**
- Do not forget you stand only because you are, forgiven! **Titus 3:3-6**

