

Sermon Title: “Why Forgiveness?”
Sermon Series: Biblical Forgiveness
Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30
Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



**Forgiveness breaks the chains of bondage...
It may take time, but Christ-centered forgiveness is the key.**

Matthew 11:28–30 ESV

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*“Wherefore, if anyone is weary, if any is in prison, if anyone is in captivity, if anyone is in the wilderness, let him come to the blessed Jesus, who is as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Delay not, arise and come away.”—
Jonathan Edwards*

Matthew 11:28 ESV

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 23:23 ESV

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Matthew 11:28 ESV

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Why do we need forgiveness?

1. _____

2. God _____.

Psalm 86:5 ESV

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

1 John 1:9 ESV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 4:32 ESV

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 6:14 ESV

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

3. Jesus _____ forgiveness.

Matthew 18:15–17 ESV

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen,

take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

1. "Go and tell him his fault..."

A. Do it in love.

B. Be sure it's sin that the person committed.

2. "Take one or two others along with you..."

3. "Tell it to the church..."

3 Types of sins which are grounds for formal church discipline:

- Heresy - false teaching or denial of biblical teaching.
- Immorality - failing to obey God's moral law.
- Contempt - deliberate disrespect toward the church or its leadership.

Three goals for church discipline:

- To maintain the honor of God.
- To restore the sinner.
- To remove the sinful offense from the church.

4. _____ & _____

What is the primary and highest purpose of human beings?

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

To glorify God by enjoying Him forever.— John Piper

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.”—John Piper

There is no competition between God’s passion for His glory and our desire for true, lasting happiness & joy.

1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Psalm 37:3–4 ESV

Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 73:24–28 ESV

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

When we’re forgiven and seek forgiveness, we do that which glorifies God. God’s Word tells us over & over that forgiveness is the best way of life because it leads to reconciled relationships.

Hebrews 11:31 ESV

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Why do we need forgiveness?

It's because life is too hard without it...we need rest.

We need forgiveness because God forgives us. It's a glorious gift He's given us!

We need forgiveness because Jesus teaches it. It's the way of Christ's grace. Forgiveness opens the door for reconciled relationships with God and others.

We need forgiveness to live with great joy. (Happiness & glory) As we find our joy in God...He's glorified by our lives. This can't happen without forgiveness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the nature of the invitation Jesus offers in Matthew 11:28-30?
How do you know if you've accepted the invitation?

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

2. Read Philippians 2:12-13. According to the Apostle Paul, do we work out our salvation or does God? Explain.

Philippians 2:12-13 ESV

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

3. Read Acts 2:37-47. Does this Scripture stress a point of decision, ongoing involvement with God's people, or both?

Acts 2:37-47 ESV

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift

of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

4. How would you talk with a person who says that he or she has tried to find rest in Christ but it didn’t work?
5. What is the relationship between God’s glory and human happiness?
6. What should be said to a person who is afraid to study forgiveness for fear that he or she might find something in the Bible he or she doesn’t like or doesn’t want to do?
7. How would you like our group to pray for you about this topic of biblical forgiveness?