

Sermon Notes: Matthew 18:23-35

Forgiven people forgive.

“Jesus is not teaching that forgiveness can be lost like a bank transaction canceled, but that unforgiveness is evidence of an unchanged heart. It shows that one never truly grasped or accepted God’s mercy in the first place.” -Craig Blomberg

4 Actions of Forgiveness

- 1. “Name the trespass truthfully as wrong and punishable, rather than merely excuse it.”**
- 2. “Identify with the perpetrator as a fellow sinner.”**
- 3. “Refuse to seek revenge or pay them back.”**
- 4. “Aim for reconciliation.”**

It is never loving to someone to make it easy for him or her to sin against you.

Should I confront?

- 1. In relation to God, how severe is the sin?**
- 2. In relation to the other person, how aware (or not) are they of the offense?**
- 3. In relation to yourself, how much has the offense hindered the relationship?**

“One of the greatest battles for holiness and love is the battle to avoid my sin in response to another’s sin.” John Piper

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you.” Corrie Ten Boom

There are 2 kinds of forgiveness. Tim Keller calls them “inward” and “outward” forgiveness. David Powlison calls them “attitudinal” and “transacted” forgiveness.

“You can forgive attitudinally without reconciliation—but you cannot reconcile without forgiveness.” Tim Keller

“It is not harsh or unloving to withhold reconciliation when the other person refuses to acknowledge their wrong.” Tim Keller