

## HEALTHY CHURCH FUNDAMENTALS (Part 3)

### Forgiving One Another – Luke 17:1-10

“Forgiveness” begins at the “cross.”

(Ephesians 1:7) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

(Micah 7:19) He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.

(Hebrews 8:12) “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

“Everlasting forgiveness,” found only in Christ!

(John 14:6) “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

The *forgiveness* we have experienced in Christ, is the basis for our “forgiveness,” toward others!

“Forgiveness,” *toward others*, is interwoven with our “connectivity” with Christ.

(Mark 11:25-26) "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Romans 12:18b - “*As much as it depends on you live peaceably with all men.*”

If you have done your part, you are not responsible for their part!

(Luke 17:1-4)

Note: three things here.

First - (v.1). “...*It is impossible that no offenses should come...*”

“*Life is 10 percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it.*” Lou Holtz.

**Secondly, Responsibility is *assigned* to the “offender.” (v.2)**

(Matthew 25:40b) 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

**Thirdly - “If he sins seven times against you in a day, forgive him.”**

(Matthew 18:21) Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

The “number” of times is not important, but rather the attitude of the “heart!”

(Matthew 18:22) Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

**Two-step remedy.**

(1) Rebuke them.

(Proverbs 27:6) Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

(2) Forgive them.

(Hebrew 12:14-15) Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

*“I can forgive, but I cannot forget, is only another way of saying, I will not forgive. Forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note - torn in two, and burned up, so that it never can be shown against one.” - Henry Ward Beecher*

(Proverbs 17:9) He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

The disciples declared, “increase our faith.”

There can be no “increase,” *in faith*, without a “decrease” of self!

(John 3:30) He must increase, but I must decrease.

Mulberry tree - symbolic of the “offense” and our stubborn resistance to forgiving others.

To uproot it requires two things.

(A) Speak to it.

“you can say,” Greek word *lego* – to speak, command direct.

Take the “L” from the Greek word “lego”– E.G.O. - Edging God Out.

(2 Corinthians 10:4-6) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Jesus redirected Peter’s “ego.”

(Matthew 16:23) But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Secondly, (B) See yourself as servant.

(see) *Luke 17:7-10*

We are “unprofitable” servants, bought at a price!

(Romans 5:6) For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

We are “debtors!”

(Romans 8:12-15) “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father.”

APPLICATION:

**Greatest motivation.**

**(Matthew 6:14-15) "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

**From the cross Jesus cried out!**

**"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Lk. 23:34)**

**CONCLUSION: I**

**Loving, serving, and forgiving, "one another," is the fundamental means by which we *continually* "cultivate" a *spiritual* health, to the "glory" of God!**