



the **lake** church

March 20, 2022

Love One Another - # 3



FORGIVENESS:

Why it's **WAY** more important
than most people think it is.

Did you know...

All religions value forgiveness, but only Christianity **requires** it.

WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE OTHERS?

Matthew 18

1. BECAUSE GOD HAS FORGIVEN ME.

(Ephesians 4:32/Matthew 18:27/ Matthew 6:12/1 John 1:9/Eph 2:8-10)

Sometimes ... if we don't **FEEL** forgiven ourselves – we can't forgive others.

2. BECAUSE RESENTMENT ADDS MORE PAIN.

(Job 5:2/Ecclesiastes 7:9/Job 18:4/Job 21:23-25)

3. BECAUSE I NEED FORGIVENESS TOO

(Matthew 6:14-15)

- We cannot receive what we are **unwilling** to give.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT...

(Jeremiah 31:34/Gen 8:1/Prov 14:15/2 Sam 12:13-14)

- ✓ Pretending it never happened.
- ✓ Minimizing the seriousness of the offense.
- ✓ Instant restoration of trust.
- ✓ Resuming the relationship without any changes.

THE REQUIRED CHANGES ARE:

1. Genuine repentance
2. Restitution where possible
3. Rebuilding of trust over a period of time
(Luke 18:27)

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS ...

- ✓ Refusing to seek revenge.

(Romans 12:17-21)

- ✓ Giving others what God gave me (Forgiveness)
(Eph 4:30-32/Hebrews 8:12)
- ✓ Refusing to be consumed by the past
(Phil 3:13-14)
- ✓ Refusing to let them live in your mind.
(Rom 12:2)