

Sunday Morning Message – 06/19/16

Series: PRAY

Week #5: "Staying Close to God"

Matthew 6:12 (ESV) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Interacting with God like Jesus did means unobstructed fellowship with God.

**"Whenever you and I sin, we distance ourselves from the Father."
– Charles Stanley**

Romans 6:23a (ESV) "For the wages of sin is death..."

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.

Psalm 51:9-10, 12 (ESV) Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a **clean heart**, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. . . **Restore** to me the **joy** of your **salvation**, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**To have unobstructed fellowship with God:
Be Quick to SEEK FORGIVENESS**

Matthew 6:12 (ESV) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 5:23-24 (ESV) So if you are offering your gift at the altar [about you and God] and there remember that your brother has something against you [about you and someone else], 24 **leave** your **gift** there before the altar **and go**. **First be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and offer your gift.

1 John 4:20 (ESV) If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV) For if you forgive others their trespasses [when they wrong you], your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Getting right with God includes getting right with other people!

Colossians 3:13 (ESV)

13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also **must** forgive.

**To have unobstructed fellowship with God:
Be Quick to FORGIVE**

When you are seeking to forgive:

1. Remember You've Been Forgiven

Colossians 3:13 (ESV) "...forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you..."

2. Admit Your Hurt and Bitterness to God

3. Let God Settle the Score

Romans 12:19 (ESV) Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."