

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Based on the command of Christ #32 – “Forgive your offenders”

1) Forgiveness is not just a suggestion, it’s commanded!

Matt 6:14-15 - For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Mk. 11:25 - And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. "

Mt. 5:23-24 - "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Pr. 19:11 - A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Pr. 19:19:20 - Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

Pr. 24:29 - Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man back for what he did."

2) Forgiveness is Limitless!

Matt. 18:21-22 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Gen. 4:24 - "If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

1 Cor. 13:5 - Love keeps no record of wrongs.

1Pet. 4:8 - Love covers a multitude of sins.

Ps 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

3) Unforgiveness will bring incredible hardships into your life!

Matt 18:23-35

23. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

25. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'

27. The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

30. "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.'

33. 'Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

34. In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Matt 18:34 He was turned over to the torturers.

Pr. 28:13 - He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Heb 12:15 - See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Lk. 24:34 - Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

4) Forgiveness is an act of the will!

Col 3:12-13 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

5) Forgiveness is an act of faith!

Heb. 12:14-15

14. Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

15. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Lk. 17:3-6

3. So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

4. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

5. The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

6. He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Mt.13:6 - But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

6) Reconciliation is always the answer!

Rom 12:14-18

14. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

16. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

18. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Col. 2:6-7

6. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,
7. rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness.

Eph. 3:16-21

16. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power
through his Spirit in your inner being,

17. so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that
you, being rooted and established in love,

18. may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and
long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

19. and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled
to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

21. to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, forever and ever! Amen.