

Forgive and Be Forgiven

Matthew 6:9-15

Welcome back and here we go! Today we will cover part of the Lord's Prayer but it is not our focus. Really our focus today is the mental attitude of unforgiveness.

Matthew 6:9-15

- 1) Why do you think forgiveness of others is so important to God?

You know the truth of the matter is Jesus modeled forgiveness in His last hours.

Luke 23:34-43

Jesus forgives the people. So really, how important is forgiveness?

John 3:16

Jesus came to offer forgiveness --- a chance to be redeemed. You might say his life was the pursuit and fulfillment of forgiveness.

- 2) (personal) What is the worst thing you have ever done? And have you been forgiven?

It is funny because we as unholy people will look to a Holy God and seek forgiveness for big and small sins. Yet, it is so hard to forgive others. Perhaps, our sin is just as grievous / hurtful to God as other people's sins against us are. Yet.....

Colossians 3:12-17

Forgiveness is a rule for Christians who seek to emulate Christ.

Matthew 6:12-13

- 3) How come we can't be forgiven if we don't forgive?

It's a mental attitude sin and it is mental attitude sins towards others, and it comes in every extreme. We think of the big obvious areas of unforgiveness.

Remember: application of grace = forgiveness.

Forgiveness is the very structure of grace!

- Can I forgive imperfect people?
- Can I forgive your hair color?
- Can I forgive your language or smell or clothes?
- Can I forgive your tardiness, disrespect, anger outburst?

This is grace in action --- giving up the need to get what I want. Wherever you are disturbed or angry, it is usually a lack of grace that only comes with Christian maturity.

4) What if they asked God for forgiveness and got it?

I think the obvious is we are not God, so we have human emotions. Still, forgiveness is a choice and if God forgave them, should I.

5) Does forgiving mean I have to have that person in my life?

I think most of us know that answer, so then what does forgiveness look like?

Well, let's look back at our text.

Matthew 6:11

Give us our daily spiritual instruction, that I can make good decisions. Before I can walk in the Spirit, I must confess my sins --- here, specifically, lack of grace or lack of forgiveness.

Matthew 6:12-13

The temptation is to continue to live in unforgiveness. The enemy will remind you of all the reasons to be angry.

6) Can a person in unforgiveness be at peace?



Philippians 4:6-9

We will close today with a reminder ---- the pathway to peace is in forgiveness and a mental attitude of thinking on what is good.

Let's pray now that God teaches our hearts to forgive and that we find peace.

