Wednesday December 13, 2023

Teacher: Joshua Kirstine

**Relational Forgiveness**

***Relational Forgiveness*** is a commitment by the wronged to graciously pardon the offender from their liability so that we honor God and our relationships thrive. In some cases, repentance is needed for the sake of true reconciliation. Relational Forgiveness does not mean all consequences are necessarily eliminated.

1. **Overlooking an Offense**

Scripture Reference: **Proverbs 19:11** and **Ecclesiastes 7:21-22**

Pastor said, “If by nature you are NOT known for or increasing to be known for overlooking things that don’t need to become offenses, then you really need to do business here. We want to be KNOWN FOR not holding people hostage to your uncommunicated expectations and or personal preferences. Church, here me, you don’t need to *forgive* peoples’ lack of performing to your personal standards, rather *you* do work in your heart and mind *to see it rightly* and not feel it’s a matter of forgiveness being needed! “It is to one’s glory to overlook an offense”! Overlook things that are not sinful!”

* **How are you doing at this? How do you struggle with this?**
1. **You can’t forgive a debt that is not real.**

Scripture Reference: **John 7:24.**

Pastor said, “We are all susceptible in our flesh to play the victim. To seeing things very selfishly or without giving the benefit of the doubt. We are often guilty of demanding that we know what another person’s intentions were and or what was meant by what they said.”

* **How have you struggled with this?**
* **Why is this such an important part of our life and testimony? Why is this an essential precursor for true forgiveness?**
* **In what ways can we grow or be accountable to this important practice?**
1. **What do we do with the sinful offense:**

**Revenge it:**

Scripture Reference: **Romans 12:17-19**

* **Why should we leave vengeance to God?** **Why is this a blessing to us?**

**Bury It:**

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 18:15**

**-Why should we not bury others offences against us?** (References to bitterness- **Ephesians 4:31, Hebrews 12:15 )**

 **-Do you see how burring your hurts has only hurt your life and relationships?**

**Forgive it:**

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 18:35, Ephesians 4:32, 1 Peter 4:8 and Mark 11:25**

* **Do you see how God’s love and grace at work in us should cause us to forgive many less consequential sins of others without needing to pursue repentance and or reconciliation?**
* **Do you see how this is a regular place we as Christians should live? “Slow to anger and quick to forgive”**

**In what ways can you grow in this?**

* By What Power Do We Forgive Others?

**Repentance and Reconciliation:**

* **Why is repentance needed for true reconciliation if the sin is grievous and or damaged the relationship?**
* **What should we do if they don’t agree or refuse to repent? ( Answer-Matthew 18)**

In this life we will have relationships that do not reconcile outside of the church. This is a reality of a fallen world.

But God tells us in Romans 12:18, If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

That said, those in the church should always find their way to reconciliation. This is because Christians always should repent and we have the truth of God’s word and the help of the body to help us settle all disputes.

**What does it mean if a Christian doesn’t forgive another?**

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:23-35**

**Who do you need to forgive?** **Who do you need to pursue for reconciliation?**

**Close in Prayer:**

\*please be done by 8pm and encourage your parents to pick up their kids and invite them to fellowship in the quad after.