

Forgiven, to Forgive

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Colossians 3: 12-17 NIV

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1. Unforgiveness Blocks God's Love

Hebrews 12:15 Watch out that no root of bitterness grows up...

Matthew 6: 14-15 If you forgive those who sin against you, your Father will forgive you.

Proverbs 17:9 Love prospers when a fault is forgiven.

2. Forgiveness Shows the Riches of God's Love

Psalms 86:15 You are a God of compassion, mercy, and unfailing love.

Matthew 18: 21-22 How often should I forgive someone? Jesus said, 70 x 7 times.

1 Peter 4:8 Love deeply. Love covers a multitude of sins.

3. Compassion Leads to Forgiveness

John 15:5 I am the vine and you are the branches. Remain in Me. Apart from Me you can do nothing.

James 2:14 What good is it to have faith, but not show it by your actions?

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

Conclusion: Forgiveness of others is a maturing in our faith and trust in God. We are being transformed into the likeness of Christ. We are to reflect Christ to the world around us as His ambassadors for the Gospel. Let us look through eyes of compassion that move us to act in love. Let us forgive others as Christ has forgiven us, demonstrating the riches of God's grace to all.

May we in turn experience freedom in Christ.

LIFE GROUP LESSON

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Week of September 26 – October 2, 2021

Ice Breaker: How does it make you feel to reflect on the forgiveness we have in Christ?

Read Hebrews 9: 19-28.

1. Why did Moses sprinkle the blood of calves over the tabernacle?
 2. What did the Law require? (v.22)
 3. What could not happen without the shedding of blood?
 4. How was Christ's sacrifice similar and different than what Moses was told to do by God?
 5. What is the greatest difference in Christ's sacrifice? (vs. 25-26)
 6. What does this mean for all who believe in Him?
 7. What was required of Jesus for us to receive forgiveness?
 8. Read Hebrews 8:12, Micah 7:19, Psalm 103:12. What does His Word tell us about our sins? Do you believe this? Do you live in this truth?
 9. Why does God do this for us? Read Ephesians 2: 8-9.
 10. What are we saying about Christ's sacrifice if we live in shame?
 11. What is our right response to such a gift? How should we be living our lives? Read Hebrews 12: 1-2.
 12. Read Colossians 3: 1-3. What are we to set our minds and hearts on?
 13. Read Colossians 3: 12-17. We are now living hidden in Christ. How are we to live? What are we to put on each day? What actions are we to demonstrate daily?
 14. What is to rule in our hearts? (v.15)
 15. Read Hebrews 12:15. What warning are we given? What happens when we let that root take hold?
 16. How does unforgiveness block the flow of God's love in you?
 17. We are repeatedly told to forgive others, why? When we strive on our own, what is the struggle we face?
 18. Read John 15:5. How does this truth relate to being forgiven and forgiving others? Could this truth shift you to have compassion for someone who wronged you but does not know Jesus?
 19. Read John 8:36. What does this truth mean in light of this study?
- Point to ponder:** What does forgiveness require of us? If we remember we are no longer living for self, but it is Christ living through us, how might that adjust our willingness to forgive? How might we better reflect the riches of God's grace to this world?