



Forgiven and Forgiving

Scripture: Matthew 6:9–18; 18:21–35

Series: Abide with Us

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
- Matthew 5:48

If Christian _____ is merely an _____ disposition and does not lead to acts of _____, it becomes reduced to a private _____.

Jesus’s advice is not to neglect these formative practices but to do them _____ rather than _____.

Forgiveness is the act of _____ an _____.

- *aphiēmi* = forgiveness = to let go, to pardon
- _____ love is the basis for true forgiveness (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- Forgiveness is supposed to be the _____ of those who have been _____.
- Colossians 3:13
- Hebrews 12:15

Process of Forgiveness:

1. _____ the pain.
2. _____ God’s forgiveness.
3. _____ go of the _____.
4. _____ to forgive.
5. _____ for the person who hurt you.

Start talking.

- Did you grow up in an openly “religious” home? Or was religion a private matter, unseen by you until later years?
- How many credit cards do you have? When does your credit card temp you the most?

Start thinking.

- Offenders in Jesus’ day were forgiven up to 3 times; a fourth offense need not be forgiven. What does Jesus’ answer say about forgiveness in the kingdom?
- How does the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt 18:23-35) extend Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness? In refusing to be merciful to others, what do we deny to ourselves (vv31-34)?
- How does Jesus’ point in 18:35 compare with his statement in 6:12? Do we forgive others so that God will forgive us, or does God forgive us so that we will have a forgiving attitude?
- Is God’s forgiveness limited or unlimited? Conditional or unconditional? What about our forgiveness of others?

Start sharing.

- What has driven home the importance of forgiveness for you? How can we forgive, yet not encourage irresponsibility?
- How can you forgive someone from the distant past who hurt you deeply? What is the connection between forgiveness, health, and wholeness?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, help me to truly understand the depth of your forgiveness and mercy that has been given to me. Out of that understanding may I extend the same to those that have wronged me. Heal me Lord from my unforgiveness in my heart that I may be freed to truly love.

Start Doing:

- Look for where God is doing something in the ordinariness of life, and join Him.
- Get away into a solitary place each day and seek the Father’s will. Listen to him.
- Acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness in the past and place your current struggles at his feet and receive and live into the hope of what only He can do in your life.