

Forgiveness

(Ephesians 4:32, Luke 17:3-4, Matthew 18:15-18,21-35, 1John 1:9, Psalm 32:1-5, Galatians 6:1-2)

Definition of Forgiveness: To disregard, to let go of, to release from, to pardon, to cancel a debt owed; The key to forgiveness is not if we should forgive, but when do we forgive and how do we forgive?

I. Here is what we must consider about Sin and Forgiveness: (Romans 5:6-11)

- A. Forgiveness of sin is possible because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ; He paid the penalty for our sins. He made the sacrifice of His life for the saving of ours from the penalty of sin (Romans 5:6-11, 1John 2:1-2)
- B. Forgiveness of sin results in the judicial act of one being made legally right with God forever; His sins no longer count against him as it relates to damnation. God is no longer angry with him. He is reconciled to a right relationship with God. (Romans 5:1,6-11) (Judicial Forgiveness/Reconciliation)
- C. Once one is judicially set free from the penalty of sin He still has to deal with God in His daily actions of sin which hinder his fellowship with God. Until he confesses and repents of this sin in his daily life he is unable to walk in fellowship with God and walk in love towards others since he is in the flesh. When confession and repentance takes place forgiveness of sin takes place resulting in restoration of proper fellowship with God. (1John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 32:1-5) (Parental Forgiveness).
- D. Since Jesus paid the penalty for all sins committed by mankind the penalty for sin has been satisfied through Him; If one refuses to accept Christ's payment for sin they will not receive forgiveness of their sin and have to pay for their own sin (John 3:16-18).

II. Here are the implications of Sin and Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)

- A. Forgiveness of sin is available to all but not granted until one deals with his sin accordingly (Proverbs 28:13)
- B. God loves unconditionally but He grants forgiveness of sin on the basis of confession and repentance (John 3:16, Proverbs 28:13)
- C. We can love others unconditionally but we cannot grant forgiveness of sin to others until the sin is confessed and repented of (Luke 6:27-36, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 18:15-17)
- D. Sin must be confronted, confessed, and repented of before it is forgiven (2Samuel 12:1-15, Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2)

(Based upon the insights above we can clearly see the application of Luke 17:1-4)

III. Sin Issues are inevitable therefore we need to be on Guard (v1-v3)

- A. You cannot avoid people trying to lead you into sin or sinning against you
- B. It would be bad for you if you are the stumbling block to others in this way since it will bring negative consequences to your life
- C. We need to watch ourselves and help keep others from becoming a stumbling block
- D. We need to identify where we are stumbling blocks and help others identify where they are a stumbling blocks

IV. We need to deal with Sin Issues and Forgiveness Accordingly (v3-v4)

- A. We must confront clear sin lovingly before it can be forgiven
- B. If clear sin is confessed and repented of it can then be forgiven
- C. As long as the sin is confessed and repented of it does not matter how often it happens it must be forgiven accordingly and put up with patiently
- D. If there is no confession and repentance of the sin there can be no forgiveness of the sin; The sin issue must then be taken before witnesses and ultimately before the Church leadership if not confessed and repented of before witnesses

10 Step Guide to Dealing with Sin and Forgiveness

1. Before one confronts another about an issue he must determine if it is a personal preference issue, expectation issue or clear sin before approaching the person. (Proverbs 13:3)
2. If it is a personal preference issue or expectation issue confrontation may not need to happen because no sin has occurred; only disappointment and denial of a particular desire. Dealing with preferences and expectations is the issue. This needs to be considered personally to determine if it even needs to be addressed since it is not a sin issue (Romans 14:1-22).
3. One must identify all unloving thoughts, words, and actions within self in response to the preference issue, expectation issue or clear sin. and confess and repent of all unloving thoughts, words, and actions to God and to others when appropriate (Proverbs 28:13).
- 4 After dealing with self one must confront the person about clear sin with the intent to restore them not with the intent to destroy them(Luke 17:3-4, Galatians 6:1-2, Proverbs 27:6a,1Thess 5:15).
5. If the person confesses and repents of the sin forgive them (Luke 17:3-4).
6. If the person confesses and repents of the sin dismiss it and never bring it up again (Luke 17:3, 1Peter 4:8).
7. If the person refuses to confess and repent of the sin bring witnesses to address it (Matthew 18:15-17).
8. If the person refuses to confess and repent of the sin with witnesses take it to the leadership of the Church so that they can address it (Matthew 18:15-17).
9. No matter what the reaction of the other person or the outcome of the situation one should be an open channel of love to the person (Luke 6:27-36).
- 10 One should pray and do good to the person.(Luke 6:27-36, Romans 12:14,20-21,1Peter 3:9).