

Group Resource

**Sermon Notes – Sunday, November 11, 2012**

**ONE ANOTHER**

**Message:** “Forgive, As You Have Been Forgiven”

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:12-14

The second aspect of fulfilling our debt of love to God is to walk in Godly forgiveness towards others. We can only walk in forgiveness if we understand how the Lord has forgiven us of our sins.

- I. The Bible is full of individuals who demonstrated forgiveness in spite of some very difficult breaches. These ordinary men exemplified extraordinary forgiveness because they understood the depth of God’s forgiveness towards them and modeled it towards others.
- II. We often are challenged with two aspects of forgiveness: 1) What does Godly forgiveness require of us? and 2) To whom and when should we forgive others?
- III. *“Forgiveness is a decision to give up your perceived or actual right to get even with, or hold in debt, someone who has wronged you.” Forgiveness brings a pathway to restoration in light of repentance.*
- IV. How has God forgiven us?
  - a. COLOSSIANS 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.
  - b. God’s forgiveness was not
    - i. **Cheap** – God paid the price for our forgiveness by making a sacrifice of His son. Forgiveness is more than erasing what happened – Something did happen but someone paid the price.
    - ii. **Limited** – When God forgave, he forgave us “all of our sins.” He didn’t pick and choose which sins to forgive. (Col 2:13)
    - iii. **Without the need for repentance** – Though God provided the means for our forgiveness on the cross, we still have to repent to receive the benefit.
- V. How do we forgive others as God forgave us?
  - a. **1- Realize that forgiveness is an expression of love and grace.** We are not inclined to show love and grace, so we have to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience to walk in forgiveness. (Col 3:12)
  - b. **2 - Don’t use a double standard.** We can’t excuse our behavior but withhold forgiveness towards others.
  - c. **3 -Know that forgiveness will cost you something, but what you gain in return will be much greater.** Forgiveness costs you the right to get even, but blesses you with God’s best!
  - d. **4 - Don’t limit your forgiveness to those who you feel are worthy of your forgiveness.** Jesus instructed Peter that forgiveness should be limitless. (Matthew 18:21). This doesn’t mean that after forgiveness, we place ourselves back in the same situation.
  - e. **5 - Don’t withhold forgiveness** when repentance has taken place or unreasonably try to make people prove their repentance.
- VI. The benefit of forgiveness is that we receive the abundance of grace that we need.
- VII. The loss of unforgiveness is that we allow a root of bitterness and anger to build up in our heart, which will eventually cause us to sin against others.

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**Let's Talk Notes – Week of November 11, 2012**

**Message:** "Forgive, As You Have Been Forgiven"

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:12-14

- 1) During the winter, what activity do you find most relaxing?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
- 3) In your own words, summarize what it means to you that God forgave you of all of your sins. How would your life be different if God withheld his forgiveness towards you?
- 4) Pick one individual in the Bible who inspires you by their demonstration of forgiveness towards others. What do you like about their story?  
e.g., *Esau and Jacob*. (Genesis 33:4–15); *Joseph* (Genesis 45:8–15);  
*Moses* (Numbers 12:1–13); *David* (2 Sam 19:18–23); *Solomon* (1 Kings. 1:52, 53); *Jesus* (Luke 23:34);  
*Stephen* (Acts 7:59-60); *Paul* (2 Timothy 4:16) and  
*the Prodigal's Father* (Luke 15:21-24)
- 5) What is your biggest challenge in exercising forgiveness towards others whom have wronged you? What kind of offense do you find most difficult to forgive?
- 6) **Read Matthew 6:14-15.** How does unforgiveness affect our relationship with God? How can unforgiveness affect us physically, emotionally, or spiritually? Have you struggled in any of these areas because of unforgiveness? If so, what has held you back from forgiving others?
- 7) How does forgiveness lead to restoration and reconciliation? What does Biblical reconciliation look like? How are Godly sorrow and restitution a part of the process of reconciliation?
- 8) How would you advise Mary about how to walk in forgiveness and reconciliation? (*Please advise Mary using a biblical approach!*)

Everybody loves Jason. The consensus is that his perceived spiritual maturity and humble servant's heart have been an encouragement to many. He is an elementary school teacher and often volunteers for Mars Hill Fellowship Church. Jason and his girlfriend, Mary, are planning to get married in the next year.

Late one afternoon Mary was cleaning her car and noticed a receipt that belonged to Jason from a strip club. It was unmistakable. She confronted Jason and after a week of arguments, denials and threats, Jason finally came clean. He is addicted to pornography. Mary was devastated.

Jason did repent of his sin to Mary and they sought counseling. One year later, Mary is still unwilling to forgive Jason. She is angry, critical, bitter, self-justifying and self-righteous.

*What should she do? What things are preventing Mary from walking in forgiveness? What should Jason and Mary's relationship look like now? After she forgives him, should they still get married?*