

FORGIVENESS

Matt 10:8

"Give as freely as you have received."

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Romans 12:14 (NKJV)

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:19 (NKJV)

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- A. Forgiveness is not justifying someone's bad behavior.
- B. Forgiveness is not minimizing the seriousness of what someone did to you.
- C. Forgiveness is not resuming a relationship without a change!

How to be forgiven:

Repentance - you demonstrating genuine remorse

Restitution – be willingly to repay or show a change of behavior

Rebuilding trust - time

- D. Forgiveness is not forgetting what happened.

II. WHAT IS FORGIVENESS

- A. It is a decision.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- B. What is forgiveness? Surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me.

Romans 12:19

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

C. What is forgiveness - It is responding to evil with Good!

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 18:21-22 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

III. WHY SHOULD WE GIVE FORGIVENESS?

- A. Because God has done so for you.
- B. Because the alternative is bitterness!

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior.³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

- C. Because God expects you to!

Matthew 6:15

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

IV. 2 SPECIFIC PRAYERS NEED TO BE PRAYED TODAY.

- A. A prayer for forgiveness. What do you need to be forgiven of? Or who do you need to be forgiven by?
- B. A prayer of forgiveness.

Who do you need to forgive today?