

2 Corinthians: Encouragement in Troubling Times
"Forgiveness" Pt. # 5
2 Cor. 2:5-11
5-15-16 Sun AM

Paul shares why he changed his travel plans (1:23-2:1).

1. It was to spare the Corinthians the rod of discipline and give them time to correct their problems with the sinning man in 1 Cor. 5:1-13.
2. To give the false teachers time to repent.

The sinning man who had his father's wife (step-mother), repented but the church did not forgive him and restore him to the fellowship.

Paul speaks of the command to forgive and shares why we as Christians need to forgive repentant Christians.

TT- I want share some thoughts on the different types of forgiveness and tonight reasons why we need to forgive others.

I. Divine Forgiveness Has Two Aspects.

Christianity is unlike the world's religions in that...

1. We have a perfect Savior who died in our place and rose from the dead on the third day.
2. We are promised forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life in heaven thru grace.
3. God came to us in grace while they try to work their way to God. Jesus is the only way to the Father in heaven.

A. Judicial Forgiveness God Grants as Judge.

This forgiveness was purchased for you by Christ's atonement for your sin and frees you from any threat of eternal condemnation.

It's called justification and is something God alone does and it is immediate and forever when we truly repent and believe in the work of Jesus on the cross and not our works righteousness.

Q- Exactly how do we receive judicial forgiveness? How does the blood of Christ cleanse our sins and give us perfect righteousness so we can go to heaven?

1. When God forgives sin, He doesn't merely overlook sin. Atonement must be made because He is a holy God and can't look on sin.

2. Christ made full atonement on the cross by his sufficient substitutionary death for the sinner.

3. When we repent and believe in his work on the cross for us and the fact we are sinners and He is God's son who rose from the grave on the third day, we are freed from the guilt of sin.

4. We need perfect righteousness to go to heaven.

Matt. 5:20, For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

5. The full merit of Jesus' righteousness is imputed or credited to those who trust in Him alone for righteousness.

Rom. 4:5, But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6. We are then clothed in His righteousness, and God accepts believers solely and exclusively on that basis.

Philippians 3:8-9, Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

2 Cor. 5:21, For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Eph 1:7, In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Heb. 9:22, And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

1 Peter 1:18-19, Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; (19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Justice, grace, and mercy- "The Just for the unjust"
There is another aspect of divine forgiveness...

B. Parental Forgiveness God Grants as Your Father.

The forgiveness of justification takes care of judicial guilt, but it does not nullify His fatherly displeasure over sins committed as a Christian.

God as Father is grieved when we sin and stands ready to forgive us (1 John 1:9; Ps. 32:5; Heb. 12:5-11).

"Confess" in 1 John 1:9 is in the present tense and speaks of continually forgiveness.

We confess the sin of unbelief once for salvation and relationship (John 16:7-11), but as we sin as believers we confess for sanctification or fellowship (Ps. 51. 1-12; 1 John 1:4; 2:1).

Let me show you the difference:

- Judicial forgiveness deals with sin's penalty and relationship - Parental forgiveness deals with sins consequences and fellowship.
- Judicial forgiveness frees us from the condemnation of the righteous, omniscient judge who we wronged - Parental forgiveness sets things right with a grieving and displeased father.
- Judicial forgiveness provides unshakeable standing before the throne of divine judgment - Parental forgiveness deals with the state of our sanctification at any given moment and is given from the throne of grace.
- So the forgiveness Christians receive who have been washed in the blood seek in their daily walk is not pardon from an angry judge, but mercy from a grieved father.

What should all this mean to us as forgiven believers?

1. We should have a deeper appreciation for the grace of forgiveness.
2. We should have a deeper understanding of forgiveness.
3. We should have a better understanding of eternal salvation for the truly saved.

I. Divine Forgiveness Has Two Aspects.

A. Judicial Forgiveness God Grants as Judge.

B. Parental Forgiveness God Grants as Your Father.

II. Human Forgiveness or Relational Forgiveness (2 Cor. 2:5-11).

Unforgiveness affects us physically, emotionally, socially, relationally, and spiritually.

10 reasons we need to forgive others:

1. Believers are never more like God than when we forgive.

God is a forgiving God full of love and compassion. He has cast confessed sin behind his back and buried them in the depth of the sea.

Matt. 5:44-45, 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; (45) That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

2. We violate the 6th commandment.

Matt. 5:21-22, Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill [murder] shall be in danger of the judgment:

(22) But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

3. Whoever does not forgive offends God.

All sin is ultimately against God. David admitted that.

Ps. 51:3-4, For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. (4) Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

4. We who have been forgiven much must forgive less.

God forgave us an unpayable debt at salvation, so it is unthinkable we will not forgive others.

See the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matt. 18:21-35.

5. We forfeit fellowship with others.

Unforgiveness rips the fellowship and destroy unity.

6. Failure to forgive results in divine chastening.

7. God will not forgive believers who refuse to forgive others.

Matt. 6:14-15, For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Jesus is not talking about judicial or eternal forgiveness, but parental forgiveness for fellowship. They will face chastening, loss of reward and loss of joy for not forgiving.

8. Failure to forgive hinders our worship.

Matt. 5:23-24, Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; (24) Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

9. To refuse to forgive usurps God's authority.

We set ourselves up higher than God.

Rom. 12:19, Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

10. Offenses against us are trials that mature us.

James 1:2-4, My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (4) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

In the passage before us Paul urged the Corinthians to forgive the repentant believer. Who is this man?

1. Some believe it is the man in 1 Cor. 5:1-13

2. Others believe this is a man who verbally and publicly assaulted Paul during Paul's visit between the first and second letter.

Eph. 4:29-32, Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.