

Practicing Forgiveness

Introduction

Hebrews 10:1-4, 16-18

1. Under the Old Law, there was a remembrance of sin.
2. This was so because the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin.
3. We are now under a new covenant.
 - A. Under this covenant, sins are not remembered.
 - B. Under this covenant sins are forgiven.
4. To live under this new covenant of forgiveness, we as well must practice forgiveness.
5. Sometimes it is harder to forgive someone than to ask for forgiveness.
6. Let's talk a few moments about practicing forgiveness.
 - A. Repentance must precede forgiveness.
7. In this lesson, it is not my purpose to talk about the conditions of forgiveness.
8. In order to practice forgiveness we must....

God's Forgiveness

1. We must recognize that God's forgiveness of us – is dependent upon our forgiveness of others.

A. Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers.

Genesis 50:15-21 ("Am I God?")

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 18:23-35

Respect

1. We must respect the value of the one who needs forgiveness, as God respects that value.

A. Indian Chief Maskepetoon said upon confronting his father's murderer, "You have killed my father, so now you must be my father. You shall ride my best horse and wear my best clothes."

Romans 5:6-10

Matthew 18:11-13 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray."

Actions

1. **We must act toward the one forgiven as we would want God to act toward us.**
 - A. **A man and wife were trying to solve their marriage problems with a “criticism” box. Hers had listings of criticisms. His had “I love you’s.”**

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as God in Christ forgave you.**

Colossians 3:12-13 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; **even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.**

Effort

1. **We must make every effort to forgive as God forgives, by forgetting the trespass completely.**
 - A. **There is a story of a man who allegedly could talk to God. As a test, a friend wanted to know if God could tell him his sins. His answer was, “He forgot.”**

Psalms 103:10-12 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, **So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

Hebrews 10:16-18

Conclusion

- 1. Are we practicing forgiveness in our life?**
- 2. Recognize that God's forgiveness of us depends upon our forgiveness of others.**
- 3. Respect the value of those who need forgiveness as God respected us.**
- 4. Act toward the one forgiven as God would act toward us.**
- 5. Forgive as God forgives – we must forget it (wipe it clean).**

