

The Good News of Forgiveness

July 18, 2018

This week, we will consider forgiveness of others as a lens to learn more about God's forgiveness of us!

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

-1 John 1:9

Reflection questions as we start:

1. How often do I ask for forgiveness?
2. Is there someone in my life whom I need to forgive? What is keeping me from forgiving that person?
3. Is there someone in my life that I need to ask for forgiveness? What is keeping me from seeking that person out and confessing to them?

How can I be "ready to forgive"?

Should I forgive someone who is unrepentant?

Positional forgiveness – my commitment to God – Luke 23:34, Acts 7:60, ready to forgive upon repentance

Transactional forgiveness – my commitment to offender – Luke 17:3-4 conditional upon repentance; repentance to receive forgiveness

1. Live in harmony (Romans 12:16, 18)
2. Don't repay evil (Romans 12:17)
3. Never avenge yourself (Romans 12:19)
4. Work for their good (Romans 12:20)
5. Love your enemies (Luke 6:27-29)
6. Don't keep record of wrong (1 Corinthians 13:15)
7. Put away: bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice (Ephesians 4:31)
8. Ask forgiveness regularly (Proverbs 28:13)
9. GO! (Matthew 18:15-20)

FAMILY is the best arena for practicing forgiveness!

Why?

special commitment to one another, and often a common arena for wronging one another!

How do I feel about sin? What about **my** sin in particular?

Confess = to say the same thing *about my sin that God does!*

How can God be “just” to forgive us?

Jesus paid in full the debt owed for my sin, so that justice is accomplished when I am in Christ!

***The basis of forgiveness is Jesus’ payment on the cross!**

Asking forgiveness:

1. Be humble
2. State clearly what you did wrong
3. Request their forgiveness
4. Keep it simple
5. Don’t confess accusingly – “I’m sorry for what you made me do...”

The more we practice confession, the more we value forgiveness!