

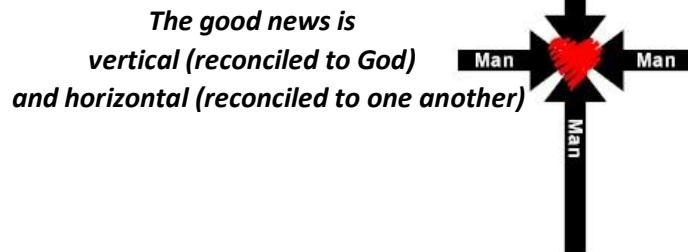
The Good News of Forgiveness

July 16, 2018

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

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

-Ephesians 4:32



What are some of the major obstacles we face when forgiving others?

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

What observations do you notice?

Forgiveness is:

- A release (Matthew 18:27) *from repayment, from moral obligation of consequence*
- An act of compassion (Matthew 18:27)
- A gift
 - We do not deserve it
 - We could not earn it
- A decision

BUT, how do we get there?!?

Does it upset you to think about forgiving others who have hurt you? Why?

When we are wronged, what loss(es) do we suffer?

Forgiveness is NOT:

- A quick-fix
- Condoning or excusing
- Easy
- Automatic trust
- A feeling

Prior to forgiveness, we may need to grieve our losses. We will talk more about how to do this tomorrow!

*Reread Matthew 18:21-35 – as the **forgiven servant**, not as the merciful king. Consider for a moment how much debt you have against an almighty and holy God. Does this change your perspective?*