

The Good News of Forgiveness

July 17, 2018

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

For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

-Psalm 86:5

Forgive = 1. send away; let go; release

2. show grace to; give freely

Three commitments of forgiveness:

1. I will not bring the issue to the person's harm
2. I will not share the issue with others
3. I will not dwelling on the issue in my mind

Do you agree or disagree with these commitments? Why?

We've all been hurt – by a *parent*, by a *sibling*, by a *friend*, by a *spouse*, by *another Christian*...

How do we truly come to the point where we can genuinely make these commitments of forgiveness?

In your hurt, what do you want most?

Where do you look for healing?

- Is there healing in harboring bitterness?
- Is there healing in justice?
- Is there healing in vengeance?

How quickly must I forgive?

as quickly as possible! Ephesians 4:26-27, Psalm 86:5

What is the cost of forgiveness?

Colossians 2:13-14

What is the cost of bitterness?

Read Philemon.

What observations can you make?

What basis does Paul have for confidence that Philemon will forgive Onesimus?

What payment will be made for Philemon's loss?

★ Charge it to my account

What payment is made for our loss?

★ Charge it to Jesus' account (John 19:30)

Consider together: ***What is Christianity without forgiveness?***