



## The Godly Discipline of Forgiveness Matthew 18:21-35

- 1) God forgives all sins of those who place their faith in Jesus Christ
  - a) Jesus was born to forgive man's sins (Matt. 1:20-21)
  - b) Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29)
  - c) Jesus was granted authority to forgive all sins (Matt. 9:1-8; cf. Mk. 2:5-7)
  - d) Forgiveness of sins is granted to all who trust in Jesus Christ alone (Acts 2:38; 13:38; 26:15-28; Eph. 4:32; Titus 3:4-7).
- 2) God both pardons sin and grants us fellowship with Him through Christ
  - a) Believers are declared righteous; judicially, they are not guilty
  - b) Believers have fellowship with God as His beloved children
  - c) Believers still sin (1 John 1:8, 10; 2:1a)
    - i) Christ is our Advocate (1 John 2:1b-2), removing all sins committed after salvation
    - ii) If believers confess sins, they enjoy continual fellowship with God (1 John 1:8-9)
- 3) True believers forgive others as they too have been forgiven (Matt. 18:21-35)
  - a) They unconditionally forgive all offenses against them (Matt 6:12, 14-15; Mk 11:25)
  - b) If confession and repentance by the offender is made to the offended one, fellowship is also restored (Luke 17:3-4; cf. Matt. 18:21-22)
- 4) Applications/Observations
  - a) Receive the unconditional forgiveness Jesus Christ offers
  - b) Grant unconditional forgiveness to all who have offended you
    - i) Seek no vengeance; it belongs to God
    - ii) Pray for that person; speak no ill of him/her
    - iii) Do good to that person if given opportunity
  - c) Welcome into fellowship those who have repented of their sin(s)
  - d) Marriage endures till death only when we forgive
  - e) We are most like Christ when we forgive