

FORGIVING OTHERS :

“FORGIVENESS TOWARD ALL”

Christian Forgiveness - #2

REVIEW

- ❖ Even if we have been sinned against, our first focus is always on our own sins.
- ❖ We seek forgiveness from those whom we have sinned against as if we were trying to avoid "debtor's prison".
- ❖ The sins we commit are always indicative of greater sins in our heart.

STAGES IN THE PROCESS OF FORGIVING

- 1. Forgiveness toward all**
- 2. Confrontation leading to repentance**
- 3. Reconciliation**
- 4. Restoration**

BEING SINNED AGAINST

Q: In what ways do people sin against others? What sins would we classify as "sinning against" someone?

MARK 11:25

“And **whenever** you stand **praying**, **forgive**, if you have **anything** against **anyone**, so that your Father who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

- **Context**
- **Circumstance**
- **Conditions**
- **Criteria**
- **Command**
- *What isn't here?*

DEFINITION OF FORGIVE

❖ Greek verb is *aphiemi*-

- *lit.* - "to emit, send forth, send away"; or "to leave" - (Mt. 4:11; Rev. 2:4).
- *metaph.* - of divorce (1Cor. 7:11); of dying ("giving up the spirit" - Mt. 27:50); to speak out loud (Mk. 15:37).
- "to forgive" - mostly in gospels; but also Acts 8:22; Rom. 4:7; 1John 2:12.

DEFINITION OF FORGIVE

- ❖ **Forgiveness is a conscious decision to obey and imitate God by:**
 - **not holding onto animosity, malice, or bitterness;**
 - **resolving to fight against such in the future;**
 - **and determining to pray and (if possible) work for my enemy's spiritual good.**

"LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON"

- ❖ **Matthew 5:44-45 - "But I say to you, 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.'"**
- ❖ **Psalm 145:9 - "The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made."**
- ❖ **Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."**

"LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON"

- ❖ **Luke 23:34 - "And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"**
- ❖ **Acts 7:60 - "And falling to his knees [Stephen] cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep."**

DEFINITION OF FORGIVE

- ❖ **NEGATIVELY...** What might be some types or indications of un-Biblical "forgiveness"?

APPLICATIONS

- ❖ **There is no room for bitterness in a Christian heart.**

APPLICATIONS

- ❖ **Forgiveness of others' sins against you is a necessary part of being a child of God. It is not optional.**
- ❖ **Failure to forgive is "un-God-like" and a sin.**

APPLICATIONS

- ❖ When combined with Matthew 5:21, the two parties ought to find themselves meeting each other.