

FORGIVENESS

Unconditional Love (UL) as we operate in the Filling of The Holy Spirit (F/HS) & New Man, keeps a relationship on an even keel, avoiding the overreactions that come from Old Man thinking {1Cor 13}. But when we let go of God the Holy Spirit and look selfishly at our partner or friend, feeling hurt or betrayed by their behaviors, we often react with Mental Attitude Sins (MAS) {breaking old patterns requires determination}. We often find true forgiveness that wipes away the sins of others, like God wipes away ours, very difficult & we do it incompletely or not at all. Jesus will demonstrate real forgiveness so that we can see it in the life of Peter.

Out text: Mt 18:21-35

Mt.18:21-22 – The question & answer: How many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? A limited number of times before I kill him or forsake him? Jesus: every time he sins against you until God takes you to heaven.

- a. Def: *aphiemi* – to release from a debt; the idea being that when someone sins against you or you at least feel like they have, in your mind they incur a debt. They owe you an apology, an acknowledgement or you even expect them to endure some punishment from you.
- b. Forgiveness considers the debt fully paid & the debtor free to start all over – the difficulty is when the same behavior continues again/again over time – makes it harder to keep forgiving.
- c. The question implies an ongoing failure on the part of Peter's brother & the Lord's answer definitely includes a lifetime of offences from an intimate companion – forgive always!

(Mt.23-35) – The illustration: Parable of the Forgiven but Unforgiving Servant

- Vs 23-27 - 10,000 talents – huge sum; Not able to repay; himself, wife, children, possessions sold into indentured slavery until all was repaid; Falling down in total humility (proskuneo – worship), begged for a chance to pay; Filled with compassion, the Master released him from the pronounced punishment & forgave the huge debt.
 - Vs 28 – 31 – Fellow slave owed him 100 denarii, slave fell down and begged for a chance to pay; Forgiven slave refused & threw him into prison until he could pay; fellow slaves were grieved & informed the Master.
 - Vs 32 – 35 – After the huge debt I forgave you, didn't you find it necessary to show mercy to your fellow slave as I showed mercy to you? He delivered him to the jailers to be tortured until he should repay. Thus, shall GF do to you if you refuse to forgive your brother from your hearts.
- a. Parables teach a main idea and we must reject the temptation to read into every aspect – God is able to freely forgive our debts because Christ paid them out on the cross. He expects us to do the same with all others or suffer the torture of self-induced misery (SIM) from justifying sinful anger & living alone behind the walls of your self-protective stronghold. Better to emerge & risk being hurt by your partner's baggage than insulate self from even God.
 - b. The Master is God, the fellow slaves are bel's in the Jewish Age, where they had indentured servitude for unpayable debts along with the year of Jubilee, all analogous to God forgiving His children in Christ but them using legalistic justifications to hold sins/debt against others.

- c. The subject is the slave forgiven the huge amount who refuses to forgive his fellow slave a small amount & implements the full weight of available resources to extract payment.
- d. The slave's refusal to forgive others winds him up in the hands of the torturers (basonistes), jailers who torture a confession from you – analogous to self-induced misery (SIM) & divine discipline.

Using Peter as an example: In (Mt 26:31-35) Jesus explains that all the disciples will run away when He is arrested. Peter's pride won't allow him to believe the Lord. (Mt.26:69-75; Mk 14:66-72; Lk 22:54-62) - Peter's 3 denials; Lk 22:61-62 Jesus looks intently at Peter as he makes his 3rd denial and Peter is broken, weeps bitterly; (Jn 21) – Peter returns to fishing, believing that he is unforgiveable – Jesus comes to get him, remind him that he is fully forgiven and it is time to go back to work.

Principles for Life

1. All forgiveness begins with the Master – God the Father, who forgives all of our sins judicially at our salvation & then forgives our failures parentally as we seek to walk with Him in life.

- **Judicial Forgiveness** – sins paid on the cross, recorded in heaven, payment applied at salvation resulting in the imputation of Divine Righteousness (+R) (2 Cor 5:21)
- **Parental Forgiveness** – cleansing from sin, restoration to fellowship, enabling to live in the New Man.

(Ephesians 4:31-32) “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, fights, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you”.

(Rom 4:7) “Blessed is the one whose sins are forgiven;

(Eph 1:7) “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace”.

- What God has freely given us is the foundation and basis for who we are in Christ
- Who we are in Christ determines what we are to be like and how we are to become that

2. The Lord requires that those having received judicial forgiveness & operating in parental forgiveness, give the same forgiveness to all others in our life.

(Mt 6:14-15) if you forgive others, God the Father will forgive you, if not, the He won't forgive you

(Col 3:13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. (Mk 11:26, Lk 6:37, Act 13:38, Act 26:18, Jam 5:15)

3. Forgiveness in intimate relationships can be difficult because undesirable patterns of behavior brought into the relationship on both sides are not easily laid aside and replaced.

- They are old habituated ideas that we use over/over until we are willing to break the patterns.

(Rom 6:16) The more you use an old strategy, tell your old sad story, tell self you are justified in your sin, the more you engrain it as a habitual behavior, the more likely you are to repeat the behavior.

(2 Cor 10:4-5) The Christian Way of Life is about tearing down strongholds & speculations, breaking old patterns of behavior.

(Rom 7) What I want to do, I don't and find myself doing the opposite

- Engrained habits of behavior are difficult to break & only bel's can replace them with truth

4. Rather than forgive repeated hurtful behavior in others, especially when we are trapped in intimacy, we often judge & rebel against God by building a stronghold, justifying our own sin reaction, using the pain we have suffered, telling self we must protect self.

(2 Cor 10:5) – Stronghold - **ὄχυρον** - literally, as a military technical term fortified place, stronghold, bastion; figuratively in the NT as a strong system of philosophy and reasoned arguments false argument, opposed to the true knowledge of God. Friberg – we build walls & live behind them to protect self

- We withdraw behind the wall, numb our emotions and refuse to enter back into intimacy
- We feel safe behind our walls, justified because of our pain, but we have withdrawn from love
- When our sins are less obvious, more subtle, we pretend we are Righteous (+R), but you are in prison.