

FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:21-35

(Brief outline, add own comments)

Introduction: Discuss getting feelings hurt. Discuss how each person has a certain standard of morals. Discuss how people wrestle with how far, how long to forgive and that most forgive up to a certain point.

I. HOW FAR DOES ONE GO BEFORE SAYING "NO!"

1. Jesus teaches that ALL offenses (70 times 7) are to be forgiven continually.
2. There is to be NO malice or resentment toward others.
3. The same teaching applies to one's children as well as to adults.
4. People are to pray for those who have offended and hurt one's feelings.
5. People are to not talk about or broadcast to others what someone has done to hurt or offend.
6. Those who have been hurt are the ones to take the first steps in reconciliation.

II. WHY DID JESUS TEACH SUCH A THING ABOUT FORGIVENESS?

1. One needs to stop and think about his/her debt to God.
2. No one can ever owe to another person what he/she owes to God.
3. It is natural for a person to want and to ask for forgiveness from God.
4. Our forgiving doesn't obligate God to forgive us, yet God won't forgive us until we forgive others.
5. If WE don't forgive others, neither does God forgive us.
6. We will be forgiven by God with the same degree we forgive others - Some Day!

III. HOW DOES ONE OBTAIN GOD'S FORGIVENESS?

1. One must acknowledge his/her own inability to repay God.
2. One must ask God for free and complete forgiveness.
3. One must not attempt to explain away his/her sins.
4. One must forgive others as he/she wants God to forgive him/her.

IV. HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT FORGIVING AS GOD WANTS?

1. One must become aware of his/her own need of forgiveness from God.
2. One must be aware of the obligations laid on him/her by God.
3. Forgiving others is not difficult when:
 - There is a daily taste of God's forgiveness.
 - One remembers his/her own need for being forgiven.
 - One remembers judgment day when he/she will stand before God and answer for his/her life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Everybody gets feelings hurt at one time or other and somebody needs to apologize and forgive.
2. Christians of all people need to follow the teachings of Jesus and concerning forgiveness, Jesus teaches that there is NO limit to the number of times one is to forgive someone else.
3. The one hurt is not to wait for the one who did the hurting to ask for forgiveness.
4. Christians need to remember how much they owe the Lord Jesus Christ for after all they have been forgiven countless times.
5. Forgiving is something every one needs to do and in the same manner that he/she would want to be forgiven.
6. Lastly, how many times have YOU asked the Lord to "forgive" YOU?