

Sermon Discussion Guide:

True Forgiveness

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Scripture: **Colossians 3:12–13**

OVERVIEW

Even as Christians, we know that forgiveness is hard. This is because forgiveness is not our natural instinct—it goes against our flesh. However, in order to maintain fruitful and flourishing relationships with others, forgiveness is both necessary and right. In today’s passage, Paul is exhorting us to bear with one another and forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven us. As part of our own sanctification, we are commanded to “put off” the old self and “put on” the new self—“which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator” (Col. 3:10). Regarding our own growth in learning how to forgive others, we need to look to Jesus as our example. As such, we should meditate on the forgiveness we have received in Christ and give thanks to Him. Secondly, we should practice forgiveness by following Christ’s example as we humbly extend grace to those who have sinned against us. Extending forgiveness can be risky, yet we shouldn’t base our forgiveness on our emotions or our pride. Instead, we should trust in God as we seek to forgive others. **Forgiveness is not optional for the people of God.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Colossians 3:1-15; Psalm 103:12; 1 Peter 1:4-5; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 3:26; Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 2:16; Psalm 51:4; Romans 2:4; Romans 5:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is forgiveness so hard, even for Christians who have been forgiven by God? Discuss the various motivations and implications that forgiving someone entails.
2. Why do we sometimes withhold forgiveness? What are some excuses we make?
3. Forgiveness should lead to reconciliation, which is the restoring of the relationship. However, are there times when restoration is not possible on this side of heaven? Explain.
4. It wasn’t in this sermon, but can we forgive those who don’t ask for it? If so, how?
5. Explain how the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus was both sufficient and final. *[It was sufficient because it satisfied the righteous demands of a holy God for judgment on sin. It was final because the shedding of Jesus’ blood was the only perfect sacrifice for sin.]*
6. How does Christ’s example motivate you to forgive those who have sinned against you?
7. In your own sanctification, how are you doing in “putting off” the old self and “putting on” the new self? What spiritual struggles do you encounter as you pursue sanctification in Christ?