

P.M. OUTLINE
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FORGIVENESS

INTRODUCTION - I think forgiving is easy except when I'm called upon to do it.

"Forgive" - the remission of punishment due to sinful conduct; release; dismiss

(Luke 17:3-5) "If thy brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you 7 times in a day, and 7 times in a day returns to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him. The apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith."

1. WHY SHOULD I BE SO FORGIVING?

- 1) It's a command - (Col. 3:12-13) "... and forgiving one another ..."
- 2) It follows the example of Christ - (Col. 3:13) "even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye"
- 3) Because I have been forgiven - (Eph. 4:32) "be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you"
- 4) Because I want to keep being forgiven - (Matthew 6:12) "and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (v14-15) "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"

2. HELP ME (TEACH ME) TO BE A FORGIVING PERSON

- 1) Remember the effect that an un-forgiving spirit has on you.
(Eph. 4:31) "Let all bitterness ... be put away from you, with all malice"
(Col. 3:8) "put off all these: anger, wrath, malice ..."
(1 Peter 2:1) "laying aside all malice ..."
- 2) Remember how greatly you've been forgiven - God has forgiven you even when your sins have been too many, too horrible, and for too long a time.
- 3) Pray, "God, I'm not very good at forgiving, please help me."
- 4) Seek the aid of others, asking, "How have you become so forgiving?" and ask others to pray for you about this matter.
- 5) Pray for an understanding heart - (1 Kings 3:9) "give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"

3. FINAL THOUGHTS

- 1) We ask, "How often?" - (Matthew 18:21-22) "until seventy time seven"
- 2) Someone said, "I'll forgive, but I can't forget."

CLOSE - Yes, it's easier to preach forgiveness than to practice it.