

Forgiveness

Psalm 130:3-4 *"If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can serve you with reverence."*

Forgiveness is an act of faith, trust, belief. Tonight we'll explore three main truths that we rely on in our efforts to forgive. These truths should change us, making us more ready to show grace.

1. Forgiveness believes... that God really has forgiven sinners in Christ

- You've been forgiven, so it's fitting for you to forgive
 - Matthew 18:32-33 *"You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?"*
- You've been freed from slavery to sin, so you are able to forgive
 - Romans 6:13 *"... offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."*
- It's good for you to forgive – not for your own benefit, but God's and others' sake

2. Forgiveness believes... that God will sustain you as a forgiver of others

- Forgiveness feels costly
 - Matthew 18:21-22 *"Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."*
- Our God provides for us through it
 - 2 Peter 1:3-4 *"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*
 - Hebrews 12:3-11 *"Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."*
 - Galatians 5:16 *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*

3. Forgiveness believes... that God will judge all things rightly in the end.

- God sees & knows everything. We ought to be both humbled and confident.
 - Psa 94:9-11, 22 *"Does he who fashioned the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see? Does he who disciplines nations not punish? Does he who teaches mankind lack knowledge? The Lord knows all human plans; he knows they are futile.... the Lord has become my fortress, my God the rock in whom I take refuge. He will repay [the wicked] for their sins."*