

FORGIVING OTHERS

Matthew 17:3-4

Rebuke means to reprove (Leviticus 19:17)

Point out the sin in order to bring restoration.

If a person genuinely repents, you must forgive them.

The words 7 times a day denote completeness – as often as it happens

Matthew 18:21-35

When one sins against me.

Revenge is natural to men and in consequence, nothing is more difficult to him than forgiveness of injuries.

To complete the idea, Jesus tells a parable in verses 23-35

Matthew 6:12-15

A portion of how we are to pray: Lord's Prayer

Sin is pictured as a debt and the sinner is the debtor.

The word forgive literally means to send away or dismiss.

Verses 14-15: If we refuse to forgive others, God will also refuse to forgive us.

Why? Because when we don't forgive others, we are denying our common ground as sinners in need of God's forgiveness.

Colossians 3:12, 13

Our lives as Christians, our attributes and attitudes should show compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience

Forbearing one another: "holding yourselves back from one another" Avoid all occasions of irritating or provoking each other.

Other Scriptures dealing with "forbearing":

Romans 15:1-2

Galatians 6:2

Ephesians 4:2;32

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind (what is suitable or fitting to a need)

Be compassionate (inner emotions of affection)

The reason for these is these are characteristics in God (Christ) and we are to have Christ-like qualities in our lives.

BENEFITS OF FORGIVENESS:

1. A means of our own forgiveness: Mark 11:25,26

A forgiving attitude toward others is essential for effective prayer. Divine forgiveness toward a believer and a believer's forgiveness toward others are inseparably linked because a bond has been established between God who forgives and the forgiven believer. If we do not forgive others as God has forgiven us, we break that bond and forfeit God's forgiveness in our lives.

2. Restored Christian fellowship: 2 Corinthians 2:7-10

When the punishment has answered the purpose for which it was designed, the church should then forgive the offender and admit him again to fellowship. Satan would gain an advantage if they permanently separated him.

3. Spiritual cleansing: James 5:15,16

Oil represents both the medical and spiritual spheres of life. The word "anoint" here means to rub with oil....not ceremonially anoint.

Our prayers are part of the healing process.

If sin is involved, it is part of the total spiritual cleansing.