

LECTURE #10

“A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF FORGIVENESS”

PART 2 – HOW DO WE SEEK FORGIVENESS?

I. RECOGNIZE SOME COMMON _____ ABOUT FORGIVENESS.

A. We must avoid using unbiblical _____.

1. "I'm sorry." (problem: that merely communicates an _____)
2. "I apologize." (problem: that leaves the conflict _____)

B. We must avoid using unbiblical _____.

1. Some _____ the offense ("It's not a big deal.").
2. "I've asked God to forgive me. Why do I need to ask _____?"
3. Some prefer to _____ or _____ the sin rather than to seek and grant biblical forgiveness.
4. "I need to forgive _____ first."
5. "I need to forgive _____ first."
6. "I can't seek forgiveness until I _____ like it."

II. RESOLVE TO BE _____ WHEN YOU NEED TO SEEK FORGIVENESS.

A. Why is forgiveness so _____?

1. It's vital because of what _____ did for us (Matt. 18:22-35).
2. It's vital because it is _____ (Mk. 11:25-26).
3. It's vital because it prepares the way for _____ (Matt. 5:23-24).

B. _____ do I ask for forgiveness?

1. _____ clearly what you did wrong.
 - First, to _____
 - Then, to the _____
2. _____ the person's forgiveness ("Will you forgive me?").
3. Use simple, _____ terms (Prov. 10:19).
4. Be sure your _____ backs up your words (Prov. 25:11).
5. Don't confess _____.

PART 3 — HOW DO WE GRANT FORGIVENESS?

I. THERE IS AN _____ SIDE TO GRANTING FORGIVENESS.

A. God _____ us to forgive. (Eph. 4:31-32)

1. I must have a forgiving _____.
2. I must be willing to forgive _____.
3. I must be _____ at a moment's notice to forgive the person who sinned against me.

B. Forgiveness is a three-fold _____...

1. I will not bring it up so as to hurt _____.
2. I will not talk about it with _____ so as to hurt you.
3. I will not _____ on it myself.

C. Forgiveness is a _____ to do with others what God did with us.

1. It's not forgive _____ forget.
2. It's forgive in _____ to forget.

II. THERE IS A _____ SIDE TO GRANTING FORGIVENESS.

We must follow Jesus' instruction in Luke 17.

- A. There's a _____ (3a).
- B. The situation involves a clear _____ issue (3b; also Gal. 6:1).
1. The issue isn't personal _____.
 2. The issue is that a brother has _____ against _____.
- C. Here's what we are _____ supposed to do.
1. We're not to have a _____ party.
 2. We're not to blow up or _____.
- D. Here's what we are supposed to do (3).
1. Rebuke him, but do it _____.
 2. Give him opportunity to _____.
 3. If he repents, _____ him.
 4. If he doesn't repent, remain _____ to forgive.
- E. Here are some reasons for believing forgiveness is conditional.
1. Jesus said it is based on the person's _____ (3).
 2. _____ forgiveness is conditional (Luke 24:47; Acts 17:30).
 3. God commanded us to deal with each other _____.
E.g.--Matthew 18:15-18 (three steps of church discipline)
 4. What about _____ words in Luke 23:33-34?
 - a. Jesus was _____.
 - b. The _____ would be irrelevant.
 - c. It ignores the "_____ principle" of interpretation.

F. We must reject common _____ for not forgiving.

1. "I'm not sure I see the _____ of repentance." (Luke 17:4)
2. "I don't have enough _____." (Luke 17:5)
3. "I don't _____ like forgiving him." (Luke 17:7-10)