

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

I. A Background to Forgiveness.

- a. Forgiveness is a beautiful word until you have to do it. **Colossians 3:12-13**
- b. Forgiveness is to release someone from a debt against you.
- c. Forgiveness is not excusing, approving, forgetting, or ignoring.
- d. Forgiveness is a decision of your will and commanded by God.
 - i. Seek forgiveness if it is not extended (matt 5;23-24)
 - ii. Forgive when it is requested. (Luke 17:3-4 NIV)
 - iii. Forgive if it is not requested. (Act 7:60, Matt 6:14-15)

II. What makes it possible to forgive?

- a. Remember you have been forgiven. **Colossians 3:13**
 - i. Losing sight of God's forgiveness makes you less likely to forgive. Luke 7:40-50
 - ii. There is a link between forgiving and forgiven.
- b. Refusing to Forgive hinders spiritual growth.
 - i. **Matthew 6:14** is not talking about salvation but about relationship (see also 2 Corinthians 2:10-11)
- c. God grows US in forgiveness. **Ephesians 4:30-32**
 - i. Forgiveness frees you to enjoy God's will.

III. What can keep us from forgiving others?

- a. Pain out of Faith (See also Romans 12:17-21)
 - i. We will not forgive when we believe the pain and the problem is bigger than our God can handle
 - ii. When we do not forgive, we carry the pain and problems in our hands.
- b. Faith in my pain (Gen 50:20)
 - i. Faith in my pain means I am choosing to trust in a loving God who knows what is best for me
 - ii. Let God work for you and stop doing the work for Him.
- c. Forgiveness means you refuse to allow someone else's offense have the power to keep you from where God has called you.