

Peacemaking

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Forgive as God Forgave You

- 10.1 Key Principle: Our forgiveness towards others should reflect God's forgiveness towards us.
- 10.2 Who has asked someone for forgiveness? Who has forgiven someone?
- 10.3 How did you come here today? Do you need to ask someone for forgiveness? Is there someone you need to forgive?
- 10.4 Core Verse: **Matthew 5:23-24** ²³ *Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,* ²⁴ *leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.*

God is stressing the importance of **unity** amongst the body.

- Imagine every person in the room bringing their own bag of "unforgiveness" into worship.
- Aesop's Fables: The two bags of guilt we all carry.

- 10.5 You cannot forgive in your own **strength**.
- 10.6 Forgiveness is neither a **feeling**, nor **forgetting**, nor **excusing**.
- 10.7 Forgiveness is a **decision** modeled after God's forgiveness.
- 10.8 Sin creates a **debt** that must be paid.

1 Peter 2:24 ²⁴ *He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

Matthew 6:12 ¹² *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

Question: Will you **take** payments, or will you **make** payments?

Col 3:13 ¹³ *bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

1 Cor 13:4-5 ⁴Love...⁵does not take into account a wrong suffered. (keeps no record of wrongs)

"Unforgiveness is the poison we drink, hoping others will die." Unknown

- 10.9 True forgiveness that is modeled after God's forgiveness includes **promises**.
- "In response to God's love for me and in reliance on his grace, I forgive you. Specifically, with God's help..."
- "I promise I will not **dwell** on this incident." [Good thought]
 - "I promise I will not **mention** this incident and use it against you." [Hurt you not]
 - "I promise I will not **talk** to others about this incident." [Gossip never]
 - "I promise I will not allow this incident to **stand** between us or **hinder** our relationship." [Friends forever]
- 10.10 God's forgiveness should **inspire** our forgiveness.
- Matthew 18:32-33** ³² *Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'*
- 10.11 Is it ever OK to mention a past incident again?
- Recurring pattern of sin.
 - Teaching Moment; Get permission first.
 - Should be the exception, rather than the norm.

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10.12 Self-examination (X-ray) questions:

- Who is the most forgiving person you know?
 - How do they make you or others feel forgiven?
 - What is preventing you from modeling their forgiveness?
- What is preventing you from modeling God’s forgiveness?
- When you confess a sin to God and ask for forgiveness, how long does it take for Him to forgive you?
 - **Matthew 9:2, Mark 3:28, Luke 7:48, John 20:23, Acts 13:38, Romans 4:7, Ephesians 1:7, James 5:15**
 - How long does it take you to forgive someone?

10.13 A powerful, God-provided tool that every Christian possesses...the ability to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 19:11 *A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.*

Matthew 6:3-6 *...and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

Matthew 6:20 *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.*

10.14 The story of Korrie Ten Boom