**Forgiveness Series December 3, 2023**

**What Forgiveness Is and Is Not**

**Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 6:14-15**

Forgiving

* Freely giving **gracious pardon** of an offense
	+ The sense of the word denotes on-going and continual action as needed
* It is a decision to release a person from a debt or sin
	+ It could be a financial debt
	+ It could be words or actions

**Forgiveness is**

1. **On-going**

* + “forgiving” means repetitive and without end

2. **Gracious**

* + It is giving what is not deserved

3. A step toward **reconciliation**

* + In order for trust to be rebuilt over time, forgiveness occurs as a first step
	+ As forgiveness is given, restoration of right relationship can occur

4. The responsibility of the **offended** and **offender**

* + The person who committed the offense should seek forgiveness from the person sinned against
	+ The person who was sinned against should seek reconciliation with the person that sinned against him or her

5. **Asked for directly** to the offended person by the offender

* + We ask God directly for His forgiveness
	+ The person who sinned against another person goes to the person directly and asks, “Will you forgive me for….?”

6. An **inward attitude** that heals the heart of the person giving forgiveness

* + Rebuilding of relationships is always the goal of forgiveness, but the relationship cannot be restored unless and until the forgiving person has a heart set to forgive

**Forgiveness is not**

1. **Optional**

* + Jesus taught us that in order for our sins to be forgiven, we must forgive
	+ Paul shows us the model “because God in Christ also has forgiven you”

2. **An apology**

* + Forgiveness does not equal, “I’m sorry”

3. **Easy**

* + In order for us to be forgiven, Christ Jesus had to sacrifice His body and blood
		- It was physically painful
		- It was spiritually painful (bearing God’s wrath)
		- It was emotionally painful (He was deserted by all)

4. Using words “if” or “but”

* + **IF** I offended you, I’m sorry” is not real forgiveness
	+ “I know I hurt you, **BUT** I wasn’t meaning to”

5. **Conditional**

* + “I’ll forgive him when he first asks me for forgiveness”

6. Without **consequences**

* + When a significant loss has occurred, repayment may be necessary
	+ When a crime has been committed, jail time may be required
	+ When abuse has occurred, boundaries may need to be put in place

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**Forgiveness is**

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2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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3. A step toward **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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4. The responsibility of the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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5. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to the offended person by the offender

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6. An **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that heals the heart of the person giving forgiveness

* + Rebuilding of relationships is always the goal of forgiveness, but the relationship cannot be restored unless and until the forgiving person has a heart set to forgive

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	+ Paul shows us the model “because God in Christ also has forgiven you”

2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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3. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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4. Using words “if” or “but”

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	+ “I know I hurt you, **BUT** I wasn’t meaning to”

5. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* + “I’ll forgive him when he first asks me for forgiveness”

6. Without **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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