

FORGIVE EVEN AS

INTRO

Jesus made forgiveness an important part of the life of faith. Faith works by love and forgiveness is an expression and release of that love. We cannot make it through this life without God's forgiveness for us, but you cannot have His forgiveness when you refuse to forgive. We are to forgive others "even as" He has forgiven us.

I. Reasons for Unforgiveness.

- We often justify why we should not forgive.
 1. "The offense was too great."
 2. "They will not accept responsibility for the offense."
 3. "They are not truly sorry."
 4. "They never asked to be forgiven."
 5. "They will do it again."
 6. "They did it again."
 7. "I do not like them."
 8. "They did it deliberately."
 9. "If I forgive them, I'll have to treat them well."
 10. "Someone has to punish them."
 11. "Something keeps me from forgiving."
 12. "I'll be a hypocrite if I forgive, because I don't feel like forgiving."
 13. "I'll forgive but I'll never forget."

II. We are to Forgive "Even As."

- A. "...even as..." Matthew 18:32-35 v.33.
- B. "...even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you," Ephesians 4:32.
- C. "...even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye," Colossians 3:13.

III. God's Forgiveness.

- If we are to forgive "even as" we must know how He forgives.
 1. "...all thine iniquities ...neither will he keep His anger forever ...He hath not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities ...removes our transgressions from us," Psalm 103:3, 8-12.
 2. "...forgives the iniquity (the fault; mischief; perversity; evil) ...covered (overwhelms; conceals; hides) all their sin," Psalm 85:2.
 3. "...doesn't mark (attend to; preserve; reserve; save; keep) iniquities," Psalm 130:3-4.
 4. "...His compassion's fail not ...they are new every morning," Lamentations 3:22-23.
 5. "...He is gracious, full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great mercy," Psalm 145:8-9.
 6. "...ready to forgive," Psalm 86:5; "... to pardon," Nehemiah 9:17; "... abundantly pardon," Isaiah 55:7.
 7. "...pardons iniquity ... passes by the transgression ... retains not His anger ... delights in mercy ... subdue iniquities; cast them into the depths of the sea," Micah 7:18-19.
 8. "...He'll be merciful to our unrighteousness," Hebrews 8:12.
 9. "...our iniquities He'll remember no more...He chooses not to remember," Hebrews 10:17.