



6:30pm Bible Study: Pastor Chip Luter

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

"Foundational Truths About Forgiveness"

Opening Discussion

- What emotions do people normally feel when they hear or see the word forgiveness?
- When does forgiveness come easy? When is it difficult?
- Is there anyone who doesn't deserve to be forgiven?

Introduction

- Biblical Definitions of Forgiveness
 - Holman Bible Dictionary - The term used to indicate pardon for a fault or offense; to excuse from payment for a debt owed.
 - Baker Encyclopedia - Ceasing to feel resentment for wrongs and offenses; pardon, involving restoration of broken relationships. Primarily, forgiveness is an act of God, releasing sinners from judgment and freeing them from the divine penalty of their sin.
- There are over 100 occurrences in the Bible where the word "Forgive", "Forgiven", "Forgiveness", or "Forgiving" is used.

What Does The Bible Say About Forgiveness?

- I. Forgiveness is deeply rooted in the **will** of God.
 - Genesis 3:6-7, 21-24; Luke 23:33-34
- II. Forgiveness is always the **work** of God (through the Holy Spirit).
 - 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 130:1-8; Mark 2:5-10
- III. Forgiveness is a uniquely **Christian** doctrine.

Why Should We Forgive Others?

- A. The Lord **commands** us.
 - Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13-14
- B. **Unforgiveness** hurts us more than the offender.
 - Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25
- C. The Lord has forgiven us and **continually** extends His forgiveness.
 - 1 John 1:9

How Should We Forgive?

- 1.) Forgiveness must be given _____.
- 2.) Forgiveness must be given _____.
 - Genesis 50:15-21
- 3.) Forgiveness must be given _____.
- 4.) Forgiveness must be given _____.
 - Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 18:21-34

Big Idea

Forgiveness comes solely from our Heavenly Father and flows through His love and grace. To forgive like Him, we must choose to live in Him and for Him.

Personal Follow Up

- Have you repented of your sins and received forgiveness from Jesus, your Lord and Savior?
- If so, have you forgiven those who have offended you?
- Spend some time in prayer this week to consider who the Lord wants you to forgive.