

Forgiveness Summary



- Forgiveness is
 - A fundamental issue of the Christian faith
 - Probably the most important thing that every human being needs
 - Can be hard!
- Jesus died so that we might be forgiven for our sins. Mark 10:45
- As a result, we must in turn forgive
- If we do not then we sit as judge over them - but that is God's role. Deuteronomy 32:35
- Forgiveness means
 - Surrendering to Jesus our right to judge someone
 - Releasing the individual and allowing the Lord to be judge
- Forgiveness is a command. Matthew 6:14-15
- We must obey the Lord and forgive those who trespass against us. Matthew 18:21
- Forgiveness does not justify a sin or remove accountability
- When we do not forgive, we hold ourselves in bondage and give Satan access to our lives
- Forgiveness may be a process
 - May have to pray "Lord make me willing to be willing to forgive"
- Sometimes we can blame God for something that has caused us pain.
 - We need to 'forgive God' and release him from our judgement.
- Many of us struggle to forgive ourselves. Romans 8:1
 - If Christ has forgiven us, what right do we have to continue to punish ourselves?
- Unless we forgive we will carry anger and bitterness
- We may need to forgive several times a day
- See the parable of the unmerciful servant. Matthew 18:21-35
- Forgiveness is a heart attitude - it can start as a will decision, but must transfer into our hearts
- When we have truly forgiven someone we are no longer controlled by them; we are free!
- True forgiveness brings healing into our lives
- It is the key to unlocking the prison of bitterness and anger that imprisons us