

Talk 5 - LOVE IS FORGIVENESS

1. Giving Forgiveness

1 Corinthians 13:5 (niv) *It (love) is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

Matthew 18:21-22 (niv) *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"* ²²*Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times*

Proverbs 10:12 (niv) *Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.*

- Love lets it (the offence) go

2. What the Bible has to say about Forgiveness

Matthew 18:23-27 (nlt) *"Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 25 He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. 26 "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' 27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.*

- King forgives an ENORMOUS debt – man has that “whew!” moment.
- Man turns around and doesn't forgive someone else.
- This is a story about us. Since the day we were born we've been getting deeper in debt.

Romans 3:23 (niv) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

- Sin is anything we've done that's wrong (*lied, stolen, lusted, hated, judged*)

Romans 6:23 (niv) *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- Wages of sin

Romans 5:8 (niv) *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- God has wiped our debt clean [*wipe the poker chips off of table, and remove pitcher into a bucket*] through the death of Jesus who became sin in our place releasing us of the penalty.
- There are those who feel the weight of guilt and sin, and those who don't.

- **Those who do feel the weight of sin:**

Understand that Jesus' unconditional forgiveness is for anything you have, are, or will do. Accepting Him means accepting that everything you've ever done has been covered. The best thing some of you can hear tonight is that you've been forgiven.

- **Those who don't feel the weight of sin:**

You aren't sure you buy into this idea of needing to be forgiven.

If you're here and feel that way I would ask you one question: ***Does your not feeling guilty necessarily mean you're NOT guilty?***

Example: Seeing a policeman. *I don't feel like I'm doing anything wrong until I see a cop and realize I'm speeding.*

3. Actions Steps

Explore God's forgiveness

Accept God's forgiveness

Show God's forgiveness

- **Why do we need to forgive other?**

Because we've been forgiven so much.

How can we not forgive the people in our life when we realize what Jesus did for us?

4. Action Verse

Ephesians 4:32 (niv) *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*