

FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 2:3-11**. From Roy H. Enoch (05/15/1994).
- B. There are few desires closer to the human heart than forgiveness.
 - 1. It is important to acceptance in the home.
 - 2. It is necessary if we are to get along w/ our neighbors.
 - 3. The workplace is disrupted by grudges and vengeance of those who will not forgive petty mistakes, and serious ones.
 - 4. Nations are often driven into war because of unforgiven offenses.
 - 5. George W. Dehoff said that there are three kindred spirits in the human heart: giving, thanksgiving and forgiving. If one is found, the others are probably found also.
- C. This is a central theme through out the whole Bible.
 - 1. The theme is as universal as sin.
 - 2. It is the need of every accountable person.
 - 3. It is the purpose of worship and the reason for X coming to earth.
- D. In the study, the focus on our responsibility to forgive our brethren.

WE MUST FORGIVE OUR BRETHERN...

I. ...BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT.

- A. *Forgive, forgave, forgiveness.*

The act of excusing or pardoning another in spite of his slights, shortcomings, and errors. As a theological term, forgiveness refers to God's pardon of the sins of human beings (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary) (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

 - 1. Sometimes the command to forgive has no conditions given (Mk. 11:25).
 - 2. Sometimes specific conditions are stated (Lk. 17:3).
 - 3. We should always have a loving desire to forgive as Jesus prayed for those Roman soldiers who were crucifying Him (Lk. 23:34).
- B. Paul gave commandment for the Corinthian Xians to forgive the brother who had sinned.
 - 1. This seems to refer to the brother who had been living with his father's wife in 1Cor. 5:5.
 - 2. Paul says that "this punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man,..." (2Cor. 2:6).
 - a. He does not claim that everyone supported the command to withdraw from him.
 - b. There was still a small faction that rebelled against his authority, as mentioned in the last four chapters of this second epistle.
 - c. But Titus describes the reception by the majority of the instructions that Paul gave (2Cor. 7:9-12).
 - d. The faithful submitted to the authority of the apostle and disciplined the guilty.
 - e. The faithful will still seek the restoration of those who leave the faith.
 - 3. Paul now urges the acceptance of that brother back with a similar demonstration of love to reassure him.

II. ...BECAUSE CHRIST SET US AN EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS.

- A. When Jesus prayed on the cross for the forgiveness of the soldiers, we do not believe He was praying for forgiveness that was contrary to what He had taught about forgiveness.
 - 1. See Luke 13:3.
 - 2. Many other times he conditions forgiveness on repentance and doing the Father's will.
 - 3. It seems He was praying that those soldiers might learn the truth and obey the gospel.
- B. When He commands us to forgive others, He sometimes does not give every condition that He has given elsewhere.

1. See Mt. 18:21-22.
2. Sometimes only one or two conditions of salvation are mentioned in one passage, and other verses mention other requirements, but all are required.
3. The Lord does not require us to forgive those He will not forgive.

III. ...BECAUSE WE OURSELVES HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.

- A. Our forgiveness gives us an obligation to do the same for others.
 1. In Mt. 18:23-35 Jesus tells of a certain king who had a servant who owed him 10,000 talents. A talent is almost 100 lb. of a precious metal. It would be almost 1,000,000 lb. of silver or gold. He begged for mercy and was forgiven the entire debt. He found a fellow servant who owed him 100 days labor and would not have mercy on him.
 2. Our forgiveness of another must be the kind that we want God to give us.
 3. It must be "from the heart," genuine and unreserved.
- B. Paul often taught that our forgiveness of one another must be because X forgave us (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13). This is not an option, but a necessity.

IV. ...IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE FORGIVEN.

- A. Jesus often gave our forgiveness of others as a condition for us to be forgiven (Mt. 6:14-15; Mk. 11:25).
 1. If we hold grudges against others, we condemn ourselves.
 2. If our attitude is, "I will forgive you this time, but I never want to see you again," we can expect the same from God.
- B. Our sins against God are represented by the servant who owed the king nearly one million pounds of precious metal. We have no means or possibility of repaying the debt.
 1. We want mercy to forgive the debt, and grace for other blessings that we want from God.
 2. The last thing that we could want is justice.
 3. But to get mercy, we must show mercy.
 4. But to receive grace, we must give to others.
- C. God's law on the subject of forgiveness is perfect or complete, just as it is in other areas. It places responsibility on both the offender and the offended.
 1. There is responsibility on the offender (Mt. 5:23-24).
 2. There is responsibility on the offended (Mt. 18:15-17).
 3. The offender often does not know that someone has a grudge or offense against him.
 4. If your feelings are hurt, go to the person privately and explain how you feel and try to work it out. If the problem can be solved, no one else should even know about it.
 5. Many times, the offense is just a misunderstanding with no sin committed.

CONCLUSION.

- A. We all desire forgiveness.
- B. But we must be willing to forgive from the heart.
- C. Both the offended and the offender have a responsibility to try to work out the problem.
- D. We should always desire to forgive and seek the opportunity.