

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Key points and verses from the sermon of September 2, 2018

FORGIVENESS IS FREEDOM

Ps 32:1-2: ¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose *sins are covered*. ² Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD *does not count against them*.

FORGIVENESS IS IN GOD'S NATURE

Ps 86:5: You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. [Also Ps. 99:8-9]

FORGIVENESS IS FOR GOD'S GLORY

Ps 79:9: Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins *for your name's sake*. [Also 1 J 2:12]

FORGIVENESS IS VITAL FOR EVERYONE

Rom 3:23 (ESV): ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

FORGIVENESS IS A TRANSFER OF DEBT

1 John 1:9: "He is faithful AND JUST to forgive us our sins..."

FORGIVENESS DOES NOT ELIMINATE CONSEQUENCES

David was forgiven of his sin but still suffered the consequences – see 1 Samuel 12.

True or False: It is better to ask forgiveness than permission

True or False: Experience is a good teacher.

See 1 Cor 10:11

FORGIVENESS REQUIRES REPENTANCE & CONFESSION

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) *IF* my people... will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways... THEN I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

1 John 1:9: *IF we confess our sins, [THEN He] will forgive our sins.* (ESV)

FORGIVENESS REQUIRES THE WILL TO FORGIVE

Luke 6:37: Forgive, and you will be forgiven. [Mt 18:35, Mk 11:25]

Ephesians 4:32: "Forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Matthew 6:9-15, esp v.12: ...forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

YES or NO: Does God operate with a Double Standard? (NO)

FORGIVENESS CREATES LOVE FOR THE LORD

Luke 7:47: Her many sins have been forgiven as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.

FORGIVENESS CLEARS THE CONSCIENCE

1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV): The goal of our command is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Hebrews 9:14: "...the blood of Christ [will] purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

1 Peter 3: "Be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you... having a good conscience so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."

We have nothing to fear when we have nothing to hide.

FORGIVENESS CREATES A WHOLE NEW WAY OF LIFE

John 8: Go and sin no more.

Proverbs 28:13: Whoever *conceals* his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses *and forsakes them* will obtain mercy. (ESV)

Matthew 3:7-8: Produce fruit consistent with repentance! (HCSB)

Romans 6:4 to (ESV): Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

FORGIVENESS IS FULLY DISPLAYED IN JESUS

Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV): God made alive together with Christ, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.