

Forgiveness

Relevant Bible Verses: Colossians 1:21-22, 2:13-14, 3:12 ; Ephesians 4:32 ; Matthew 18:21 ; Matthew 18:21 ; John 3:16 ; Psalm 65:3 ; Romans 4:5, 7:15-20

Message Notes:

- Forgiveness often seems something that is common or normal in our culture. A passing phrase used to appease cultural or religious norms. We forgive someone because it is something we are expected to say.
- Naturally we will forgive someone for doing something a couple of times, but if they continuously do so, we find it harder to do.
- How easy it is to forgive depends on the circumstances or the situation. For instance, it is easier to forgive someone for stealing some of your food, but if they steal your life savings it becomes much harder.
- Forgiveness should be a matter of the heart. It cannot exist with bitterness as bitterness demands the heart to dwell in animosity and forgiveness lets go of that right.
- How has Christ shown us unconditional love? He has forgiven us everything we have done, no matter how terrible it may have been. How then can we not forgive others for all they have done? In addition, if God sees us this way, how can we not see ourselves through his eyes?
- We often see ourselves as sinners. We dwell on our own mistakes, view our own actions as needing punishment. But Christ's forgiveness is not based on us or on what we have done or will do. His forgiveness will continue, no matter what. He wrote the book of our lives. He has seen all of time itself. His forgiveness and his sacrifice are *enough*.
- Because of Jesus, his love and his forgiveness, we too need to forgive others. Including ourselves.