

## *Forgive; do you know what it means?*

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

What does the Bible say about how we are to forgive?

Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Mark 11:25 "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

I shared with you today from the dictionary of etymology definition and about the root word for forgive. To simplify it was this:

Forgive: "give, grant, allow; forgive," also "to give up"  
The modern sense of "to give up desire or power to punish"  
Pardon: "passing over an offense without punishment"

What is your operating definition of "Forgive"? By that I mean, how do you walk out forgiveness, what does it look like by your actions?

How do your actions line up with the definition of forgiveness that is posted above?

Matthew 18:21,22 "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Copy this scripture in the space below so you can see it in your own handwriting.

Look at it again in your handwriting knowing this; Jesus is saying this to Peter, not because there is so much mystery in the number of times, but He is saying it as an exaggeration of this, the number is too big.... you will never get there. Quit worrying about how many times because when you are thinking, "do I have to?" then you aren't really doing it with the right heart! Friends, this is painful. It cuts us to our core, but do you remember how we redefined CORE? Consistently Obeying Restores Expectancy! It is a good thing we are not sitting across from one another right now, because I am a mess as God is putting His finger on one of my weak spots, my CORE! This is as painful as a hundred sit-ups right now!

I want to throw one other thought out there that I think we as Christ followers use incorrectly. Read the scripture below:

Matthew 5: 23,24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."

The intent of this scripture is to go and make confession, apologize when you know you have wounded or offended someone and it is a stumbling block for him or her. You go to them, you apologize for your wrong, ask for forgiveness. God doesn't want you to come before Him with hands of worship that are the same hands that have wounded, so He challenges us to show our love for Him and make it right, it is a true sacrifice of obedience.

*Here is where this goes off the rail....* when we go to someone thinking that the scripture calls us to let them know that we are forgiving them because we have carried offense in our heart over something that they did....Hold up, where is the confession in that? Basically we are calling them to account for not offering up an apology sooner and since they couldn't get it done we will do it for them and we call that obedience. The truth of the matter is that we really should be calling that an agenda. The agenda is trying to show that they wronged us, we have been hurt by it, now we are going to forgive them, and would you forgive me for feeling bad towards you in the mean time.

Bottom line, confession is supposed to be about you, not someone else. If God is speaking to you about your undone confession of a wrong, then be obedient and make it right. If he is speaking to you that you need to forgive someone, it may be more about you then it is about them, do your business first with God and then follow His leading how to walk it out.

Live with this in your heart, Do No Harm. Think back on the definition of forgive and pardon, if your actions cause more harm then reconsider.

WOW, such a deep and wide challenge today regarding forgiveness. Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

- If at all possible
- As far as it depends on you
- Live at peace with everyone

Use these three points to examine your heart today. If the Lord touches something that needs to be brought to Him in confession or if there is a place of wounding in your spirit regarding forgiveness, write it below. Offer it up as a CORE issue and ask God to walk you through it.

Lord I pray you will speak truth to each of us today regarding forgiveness. I thank you, that you forgive without hesitancy. Cultivate that spirit of grace within us. Help us to be quick to ask for forgiveness and even quicker to give forgiveness. Help us lay down our desire to punish those who wound us. God only you alone can do this work in us. In Jesus Name! Amen.