

## **Why Believe In Forgiveness?**

**Sunday, June 05, 2011**

**Exodus 34:6-7**

### **1. Forgiveness begins with God.**

#### **a. It is part of God's character.**

***Exodus 34:6-7***

(6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

(7) Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

***Psalms 86:5***

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

#### **b. It is part of God's covering.**

***Psalms 32:1***

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

***Psalms 85:2***

Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

#### **c. It is part of God's conditions.**

***2 Chronicles 7:14***

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

## **2. Forgiveness must be received and given.**

### **a. It must flow in our prayers.**

#### ***Matthew 6:9-15***

(9) After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

(10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

(11) Give us this day our daily bread.

(12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

(13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

(14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

(15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

#### ***Mark 11:24-26***

(24) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

(25) And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

(26) But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

### **b. It must flow in our relationships.**

#### ***Matthew 18:21-22***

(21) Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

(22) Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

## **3. Forgiveness comes through Jesus Christ.**

**a. He has the power to forgive.**

***Matthew 9:2-8***

(2) And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

(3) And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

(4) And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

(5) For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

(6) But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

(7) And he arose, and departed to his house.

(8) But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

**b. He has the passion to forgive.**

***Luke 23:34***

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

**c. He has the preaching to forgive.**

***Acts 13:38-39***

(38) Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

(39) And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

**d. He has the price to forgive.**

***Ephesians 1:7***

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**e. He has the pattern to forgive.**

***Ephesians 4:31-32***

(31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

(32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

***Colossians 3:13***

(13) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

**4. Forgiveness comes through prayer.**

***1 John 1:7-9***

(7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

(8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- a. Confess because God is faithful to forgive. (1 John 1:9a)**
- b. Confess because God is fair to forgive. (1 John 1:9b)**
- c. Confess because God is fantastic to forgive. (1 John 1:9c)**