



Forgiveness that Works

Path #1 -

I should forgive my spouse because it's good for ____.

Path #2 -

I should forgive my spouse because it's close to _____ heart.

Principle #1 - Forgiveness works when I remember God's p_____.

Read Matthew 18:23-35 - **Look for four principles about mercy found in the story**

1. I don't D_____ it - Vs. 24

God has granted us his mercy not because of what we have done, but because he delights in showing mercy.

2. I N_____ it - Vs. 26

When we forget this, it makes us unwilling or unable to forgive.

3. He F_____ gives it when we _____. - Vs. 27

God's mercy is over-the-top generous.

4. He wants me to _____ it. - Vs. 33

When we hoard God's mercy, we miss the point of his love.

Principle #2 - Forgiveness works when I remember God's p_____

Matthew 18: - "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

What does the process of pursuing forgiveness through confrontation look like?

This order is essential and wise:

1. Determine if the offense is worth pursuing via prayer - Prov 19:11
2. Go in Private (conversation that is one on one)
3. Go with Proof (with 1 or 2 others)
4. Go Public (Get the church leaders and helpful parties involved)

Conclusion: If we want to have God's heart of forgiveness, we must go and try to reconcile even if our attempts might be rejected.

Principle #3 - Forgiveness works when I remember God's P_____

When God forgives our sin, he provides a picture for us of what our forgiveness should look like.

- God grace removes our sin as far as the east is from the west. Ps. 103:12
- God grace does not condemn us for sin that is a_____ punished. Romans 8:1
- God's grace ensures my additional punishment is u_____. Romans 2:5

Based upon God's pattern of forgiveness: we have 3 choices to make about how to treat an offense once we have forgiven them. I choose not to:

- Choice #1 - Continue to bring the offense up to others (_____)
- Choice #2- Continue to bring the offense up to them (_____)
- Choice #3- Continue to bring the offense up to myself (_____)

Conclusion: If we want to have God's heart of forgiveness, we must trust God to deal with sin and hurts once we have granted forgiveness

Principle #4 - Forgiveness works when I remember that forgiveness is a choice but restoration is a _____

Our goal is to be a picture of God's grace and covenant relationship with us. How does grace respond to the need for a process of restoration?

- Grace helps the offender understand severity of the _____ of sin.
- Grace helps the offender find ways to overcome sin through proper a_____.
- Grace helps the offender by ensuring reasonable r_____ and appropriate m_____.

Conclusion: If we want to have God's heart of forgiveness, we value and cherish the joy of healthy relationships and move in that direction consistently over time



Discussion Questions

When God forgives our sin, he provides a picture for us of what our forgiveness should look like. What do the following promises/pictures of God model for us about how we should choose to forgive? Identify the forgiveness principle's below.

- Ps. 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Critique the following attitudes towards forgiveness might not be the most grace-filled response.

1. *I will forgive, but I want no relationship with this person.*
2. *I will forgive, but I want a limited relationship with this person.*
3. *I will forgive, and I will treat this person as if they had not sinned against me with no consequences to their actions.*