

Building a life of love

Love with Forgiveness

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Pastor Dale Satrum



1. Forgiveness is _____

Matthew 18:21-22 "Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 22'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!' (NLT=New Living Translation)

Luke 17:4 "Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive." (NLT)

- Continual forgiveness best illustrates God's extreme love for us

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness!" (ESV=English Standard Version)

- Continual forgiveness is more of a _____ than an action

2. Forgiveness Connects Us With God

Mark 11:25 "But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too." (NLT)

- Forgiving others _____ our connection with God

1 John 4:20 "If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?" (NLT)

- Forgiving others connects my life to _____ from God

Matthew 7:2 "For you will be treated as you treat others..." (NLT)

3. Forgiveness Looks Like Jesus

Ephesians 4:32 "Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." (NLT)

Colossians 3:13 "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (NLT)

- Jesus' standard was complete forgiveness

- Complete forgiveness _____ your life

4. Forgiveness is A _____

John 13:35 "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (NLT)

- Forgiveness sets us apart in this world
- Forgiveness is not the same as _____

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Discussion Questions:

1. Forgiveness is a tough topic. What makes forgiveness so difficult?
2. Why is the idea of continual forgiveness built into our relationships so important?
3. Describe how forgiveness or the lack there of, impacts our relationship with God?
4. How does forgiveness look like Jesus?
5. Explain how forgiveness liberates your life so that your heart is free to love others. Remember the illustration?
6. Why is forgiveness a witness to the world?