

SERMON NOTES

Date: July 23, 2017

Series: Uncommon Community

Title: Forgive One Another

Text: Ephesians 4:31-32

Big Idea: Sometimes forgiving someone can seem impossible, but when we see the sins of others in light of our own forgiveness in Christ, we can freely and joyfully forgive one another.

1. What is forgiveness?
2. Why should we forgive one another?
3. How do we forgive one another?
 - attitudinal forgiveness (vertical)
 - transactional forgiveness (horizontal)
4. What hinders our ability to forgive one another?

MAKE IT REAL

Questions for Personal Application and Small Group Discussion

REVIEW THE SERMON

Read Ephesians 4:31-32 and Colossians 3:12-13. As these passages teach, our ability to forgive reflects the Lord's forgiveness of us. Therefore, it's important to understand how we have been forgiven. What specifically did God forgive you for? Write a list. (For help, look at 1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:10-14, and Acts 10:43) _____

Based on the standard of Ephesians 4:32 (Forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgive you"), when would it be okay not to forgive a person? What excuses do people use for not forgiving? _____

Usually there are two steps to forgiveness. First, we must forgive the offending person in our hearts before God. This is vertical forgiveness. Then, we seek to forgive the offending individual relationally. This is horizontal forgiveness. How is forgiving a person before God different than forgiving a person face-to-face? _____

ASSESS YOUR LIFE

Biblical forgiveness makes four promises:

- (1) "I will not think about this incident."
- (2) "I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you."
- (3) "I will not talk to others about this incident."
- (4) "I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship."

Are any of these lacking in your relationships? If so, why? What needs to change?

APPLY THE TRUTH

Are you harboring any unforgiveness in your heart that needs to be dealt with? Take a moment and consider if you need to resolve a hurt or conflict. If something comes to mind, write down what you are going to do to resolve this unforgiveness.
