

How Will You Handle Forgiveness?

Hebrews 10:1-18

Introduction:

A. Forgiveness

1. Do we really understand what biblical forgiveness is?
2. Do we really understand what biblical forgiveness involves?

B. Today's lesson we will deal with two basic questions

1. How will you handle forgiveness when you sin?
2. How will you handle forgiveness when others sin against you?

When you sin (1-10)

A. The Hebrew writer quotes Psalm 40:6-8 (vv. 5-7)

1. God's desire was not the people's s_____ (v. 5)
 - a. Many were following the law like a c_____
 - b. Their h_____ were not repentant of their sin.
2. God's desire was that people do His w_____ (v. 7)
 - a. King D_____ wrote this psalm expressing his purpose of doing God's will.
 - b. The Hebrew writer applies it to the final king of Israel, Jesus Christ, who came to do God's will by offering Himself as the o_____-time sacrifice for sin (vv. 9,10).

B. How does the knowledge that Jesus Christ sacrifice forgives all our sins translate into our actions? Do we confess our sins?

1. 1Jn 1:9 states that believers have the l_____ of confessing their sins (see the purpose for this letter – 1Jn 5:13).
 - a. The c_____ of confessing is in a Greek tense that emphasizes ongoing action, a habit of life – *if we have the lifestyle of confessing our sins.*
 - b. This gives us a _____ that we will never have unforgiven sin – *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins [as they arise] and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - c. The practice of confessing is evidence of a changed h_____
2. What is biblical confession of sins?
 - a. What confession is not – it is not l_____ sins.
 - 1) Israel used the Law as a religious c_____.
 - 2) Many Christians may view confession the same way.
 - b. What confession involves – the Greek word means *to speak the same or to agree*. Do you agree with God about your sin?
 - 1) Do you a_____ your sin?
 - 2) Do you h_____ your sin?
 - 3) Do you a_____ Jesus' sacrifice as sufficient punishment for your sin? (don't punish yourself)

- 4) Are you putting the sin in the p_____ and moving on by doing what God wants?

When others sin against you (11-18)

- A. It is human tendency to be r_____ary when wronged.
1. When a child hits another child, the tendency is to retaliate and hit b_____. – this adds to the problem
 2. When an adult is wronged, the tendency is to r_____ wrongly rather than respond calmly – this adds to the problem
- B. Steps to take
1. Seek God's w_____ - how can I respond in the character of Christ?
 2. Seek to m_____ the broken relationship (Matt 5:23,24).
 - a. Jesus took the initiative to mend the broken relationship we had with Him (2Cor 5:19) – not all respond
 - b. We take the initiative and do all that we can to be at p_____ with them – not all will respond
 3. F_____ the person regardless of their response.
 - a. Forgiveness never enables w_____ behavior (never say it is alright).
 - b. Forgiveness always seek to encourage r_____ behavior (Heb 10:16 – Part of God's forgiveness was writing His laws on our h_____ to change our behavior)
 - c. If they do not respond positively continue to l_____ them unselfishly (take every opportunity to do good to them)
 - (1) If they are an unbeliever – this may eventually a_____ to Christ.
 - (2) If they are a believer – this should m_____ to repent.
- C. True forgiveness
1. Does not dig up the past and hold it a_____ the one you have “forgiven” (Heb 10:17 – God forgets our sins and leaves them in the past)
 2. Does not let the past wrong keep you from living as you should – those that dwell on the past offense victimize themselves.
 3. Is a g_____ - no one deserves forgiveness but believers are obligated to forgive (Matt 5:44)
 4. Is a d_____, not a feeling (Rom 12:20,21; Eph 4:32)

This week you will be tested in the area of forgiveness.

PASS THE TEST