

THIS IS US

PART 4: THE CHALLENGE OF FORGIVENESS

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Intro:

When Jesus is the center of your relationships, you will have healthy relationships.

Genesis 2:25

Marriage needs a careful combination of truth and love

Ephesians 4:15

What empowers truth and love in our relationships? Grace.

"I don't know of anything more necessary in marriage than the ability to forgive fully, freely, unpunishingly, from the heart." ~Tim Keller

Matthew 18:21-35

1. Sin accumulates an unpayable debt

Forgiveness means giving up the right to seek repayment from the one who harmed you

2 Corinthians 8:9

2. Our own forgiveness is connected to our willingness to forgive others

Matthew 6:12

Colossians 3:13

What forgiveness is NOT:

1. Forgiving is not condoning
2. Forgiving is not forgetting
3. Forgiveness does not always mean reconciling
4. Forgiveness is a different issue than justice and consequences
5. Forgiveness is a process

Conclusion

"You want to be happy for a while? Revenge. You want to be happy forever? Forgive." ~Tertullian

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?
2. Do you find it difficult to confront your spouse (or friend or family member) about their faults, or the things they do that hurt you? How do you typically approach such a conversation? What happens when you avoid having those hard conversations?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Jesus' parable about forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35). What stands out to you?
 - Discuss the connection between our willingness to forgive others and our ability to receive forgiveness from God (see also Matthew 5:23-24, 6:12, 14; Mark 11:25; Colossians 3:13). Why would God withhold his forgiveness from unforgiving people?
2. Read 1 John 1:5-10. What do you notice in this passage about sin and forgiveness?
 - John uses the metaphor of "light" to describe the need to expose our sin to God so he can forgive it (similar to the metaphor of nakedness on Sunday). How does walking in the light affect our relationships with God and with each other (v. 7)?
 - Practically speaking...what is "walking in the light?" How do you do it? How can you practice it in your relationships?
3. Discuss the list of things that forgiveness *is NOT* (see notes). Do you agree or disagree with any? Would you add anything? How do we

manage the tension between forgiving someone, yet protecting ourselves from being hurt by them again?

Application:

1. Is there someone you need to forgive this week?

Prayer:

- Pray for your relationships to be full of grace

Other Requests

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