

A Study in Forgiveness - Part 2

I Forgiveness defined: (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible) Ceasing to feel resentment for wrongs and offenses; pardon, involving restoration of broken relationships. Primarily, forgiveness is an act of God, releasing sinners from judgment and freeing them from the divine penalty of their sin. Since only God is holy, only God can forgive sin (Mk 2:7; Lk 5:21). Forgiveness is also a human act toward one's neighbor, given new incentive and emphasis in the NT because of God's forgiveness in the death of Christ.

II Forgiveness illustrated

A _____ Psalm 32

B _____ Exodus 34

C The _____ – Luke 15:11-32

- ◆ He _____ 11-12
- ◆ His sin brought him to a point of _____ and _____ 13-17
- ◆ He _____ and sought forgiveness 18-19
- ◆ He was _____ to his father 20-24

Application – God is never more like Himself when he forgives and man is never more like God than when he forgives. Prov 19:11

III Forgiveness Studied (man to man) _____

A _____ is to forgive 1-7

- ◆ _____ and his family
- ◆ Every _____

B _____ do you forgive 8-18

- ◆ Request 8-10
- ◆ Reception 10-14
- ◆ Restoration 15-16
- ◆ Restitution 17-18

C _____ do you forgive. 19-25 Unforgiveness...

- ◆ Imprisons you in your past
- ◆ Makes you bitter Heb 12:15
- ◆ Gives Satan an open door 2 Cor 2:9-11
- ◆ Breaks fellowship with God Matt 6:14-15

Application: while God is willing and able to forgive, He also tells us to forgive our debtors as He has forgiven us. If we do not, we will not be forgiven. Matt 6:12, 14-15; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13