

Forgiveness- The Key to the Kingdom of God

Matthew 6:14-15

Hebrews 8:12

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:19

Matthew 18:18-22

"Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

Matthew 18:1-6

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,

and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Why would God be so firm about forgiveness?

- what about forgiveness opens the door to the Kingdom of God?

“For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteous, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14:17

We can expect to be happy when we live God's way of forgiveness

“The hope of the righteous is gladness...

The way of the Lord is a stronghold...

The righteous will never be shaken.”

Proverbs 10:28 -30

- How different this is from thinking we will be happy when everyone and everything conforms to the way we want it.
- This is an unforgiving way of life which perpetuates unhappiness and keeps you out of the kingdom of God.

Forgive others as God
has forgiven you.

"FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR
INIQUITIES,
AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS
NO MORE."

Hebrews 8:12

Redemption-
the act of buying back something
previously sold

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:7-8

Forgiveness brings the miracle of redemption- “our upgrade”

- When we forgive a trespass, we are “buying back” a relationship previously lost (sold) due to the trespass.
- It does not even have to be a trespass, it can be a tragic circumstance- such as when Boaz redeemed Ruth as her near kinsman. (The Book of Ruth)
 - Ruth’s husband died, so Boaz married her
 - Boaz was Ruth’s “upgrade” because she “forgave” her loss and remained faithful to Naomi, her mother in law

Unforgiveness is
unbelief that God will
give us an upgrade
when we forgive

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?....

Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?....

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived..”

I Corinthians 6:1,7,9

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving each other, just as God in Christ
also has forgiven you.

Luke 10:25-28

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

He said to him, What is written in the law? how do you read it?

And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.'

And he said to him, You have answered right: do this, and you shall live.

- Forgiveness is the principle element of “agape” love, not emotional feelings of affection or sexual desire.
- This is why the “Golden Rule” is the “Royal Law of Love”, and is the summation of “The Law and the Prophets”. *“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”*
- This is why forgiving ourselves is a fundamental element of loving ourselves.
- If we do not love ourselves, we cannot love God or our neighbor, because we do not know how to love.
- This is why we cannot love ourselves or others if we do not forgive ourselves.

Forgiving ourselves the way God has forgiven us is the beginning of learning how to love.

The Process of Forgiveness

2. Receive Christ's Forgiveness

1. Revelation of Christ's love

3. Revelation of self

6. Forgive other's

4. Forgive self

5. Revelation of anger towards others



If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:7-8

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:10-11

How does God forgive us of our sins?

- He does not hold any resentment toward us.
- He has taken the hurt of our sin into himself by paying for it with his own hurt.
- He talks to us about it, seeking reconciliation.
- If we confess and repent, we have a relationship with Him.
- Eternal life is simply a reconciled relationship with God, which prevents death(separation from God).

