

“Forgive One Another”

INTRODUCTION: Ephesians 4:31-32 - To avoid *“bitterness”* we need to *“forgive”*.

I. THE BASIS FOR FORGIVENESS

- *“forgiveness”* isn’t based on an *‘apology’*.
- *“forgiveness”* can be conditional – Mark 1:4 – based on *“repentance”*.
- In 4:32, Paul’s talking about the ATTITUDE of *“forgiveness”*.
- We’re to forgive others LIKE Jesus forgave us ... on the basis of grace & mercy ... NOT because they deserved it.

II. THE EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS – Matthew 18:21-22

- Peter was proud of his forgiving *“7 times”*.
- Jesus tells him that *“forgiveness”* has no limits.

18:23-24 – Jesus gives a parable to illustrate this.

- In the audit, millions of dollars were found to be owed to the King.

18:25 – This amount was impossible to pay back.

18:26 – He asks for more time to pay back what he owes.

18:27 – In *“mercy”*, the King forgave the debt – like Jesus –

- Ephesians 3:19 – Your debt to God is too large to repay.
- God took the payment of His Son, Jesus, to pay your sin debt.

III. THE HYPOCRISY OF FORGIVENESS – 18:28-29

- The man who was forgiven, couldn’t forgive others.

18:30 – He showed no *“mercy”*.

18:31 – Others were appalled at his lack of *“mercy”* toward others.

18:22-23 – Where *“mercy”* is shown, *“mercy”* should be returned .

- There’s no comparison to what God has done for you ... and what He expects you to do for others, in regard to *“forgiveness”*.

18:34 – God is talking about *“relationship”* here – **18:35**

- Our *“forgiveness”* to others is limited by God’s *“forgiveness”* to us.

IV. THE NATURE OF FORGIVENESS

- *“forgiveness”* is a COMMANDMENT, not an OPTION.
- *“forgiveness”* is based on God’s *“forgiveness”* of you.
- *“forgiveness”* isn’t a ‘warm, fuzzy feeling’, but a CHOICE – Acts 7:60

CONCLUSION:

- *“forgiveness”* prevents *‘bitterness’* and *‘resentment’* ... which will shut you off from God’s blessings.
- You’ve experienced *“forgiveness”* ... NOW ... *“forgive”* others!