

2 Pe 1:8-9 & Matthew 18:21-35

We need a major overhaul as to how we see forgiveness in the body of Christ. We wouldn't disregard a part of our own body if it caused us pain would we? If part of the body affects the rest negatively, you don't cut it OUT, you give it more attention to address and correct the problem - the same is true in the body of Christ. A major warning is needed to guarantee that the church as Christ's body on earth continues in her mission - that warning is to beware of the dangers of unforgiveness. Nowhere is there allowed the petty greedy grudges we enjoy holding against one another. God has forgiven us, we are therefore called to forgive one another.

Unforgiveness: Your treasuring (keeping, protecting, sustaining, feeding, desiring, loving, maintaining, pridefully saluting) PAST offenses to hold against your brother (sister).

vs. 21 - Rabbinical teaching stated that a brother might be forgiven for a repeated sin 3x, but on the 4th there is NO forgiveness!

vs. 24 - 10,000 talents! - "could be over a billion dollars in today's currency"

vs. 26 - "be patient with me, I will pay back everything"

vs. 28 - 100 denarii - 100 days wages (a couple grand)

vs. 29 - "be patient with me, I will pay back everything"

#1 - Justice - God is the judge of the universe All wrongs will be set right, and debts must be paid.

vs 32 - the master called the servant back in / vs 35 - this is how God will treat each of you

#2 - True forgiveness leaves NOTHING owed

vs 26-27 - "canceled the debt"

#3 - The forgiven are the forgiving

vs 33 - shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?

- You cannot give away that which you haven't first received

#4 - There is NO LIMIT to personal forgiveness

vs 22 - 70 or 70x7 times!

#5 - Personal unforgiveness leads to hell

vs 34 - "In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured"

- Mt 6:14-15

How to determine if you still have unforgiveness in your heart - 3 tests of the heart.

1st - Imagine something bad happens to them, how do you feel?

2nd - Imagine something good happens to them, how do you feel?

3rd - Imagine you have opportunity to help them, do you?