



Forgiving Each Other

Lesson by Ray Reynolds (8/3/2011)

SCENIC HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

Text: **Colossians 3:13**

Introduction: The Summer Series is about the "each other" passages in the Bible. The Bible has a lot to say about relationships. One specific thing that we should study more often is the subject of forgiving others and how it can improve our relationships. Everyone has been hurt. Everyone has hurt someone else. We need to learn to be more forgiving of each other. Let's study about forgiveness. . . .

Discussion:

I. Sin Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. What had God done for David? (**Psalm 32:1-2**)
- B. What had David done against God? (**Psalm 32:3-7**)
- C. What had David decided to change? (**Psalm 32:8-11**)
 - Notice **Psalm 65:3**, **Psalm 86:5**, and **Psalm 103:12**

II. Conflict Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. We can choose ignorance (**Judges 17:6**, **Romans 3:9-26**, **Matthew 6:12**).
- B. We can choose bitterness (**Ephesians 4:31-32**, **Hebrews 10:30**, **Hebrews 12:14-15**).
- C. We can choose forgiveness (**Matthew 6:14-15**, **Matthew 18:21-35**, **I Corinthians 13:5**).
- D. We can choose repentance (**Isaiah 1:18**, **Ezekiel 36:25**, **I John 1:8-9**).

III. Mercy Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. Rediscover the person's humanity (**Romans 3:9-26**, **John 3:16**).
- B. Surrender the desire for vengeance (**Hebrews 10:19-39**, **II Corinthians 2:7**).
- C. Empower others with your great example (**Luke 5:17-26**, **Romans 12:10**).
- D. Exemplify the Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 11:28-30**, **Galatians 6:1-2**).

IV. Change Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. Don't forgive someone too quickly (**Matthew 18:21-35**, **Matthew 5:23-24**).
- B. Don't forgive someone too late (**Matthew 6:14-15**, **Proverbs 27:10**).
- C. Don't forgive someone based on their repentance (**Luke 23:34**, **Mark 11:25**).
- D. Don't forget that forgiveness is a process (**Matthew 18:22**, **Luke 17:3-4**).

Conclusion: God has blessed us with the power of relationships. WE NEED EACH OTHER! Do you have trouble forgiving others? Do you need forgiveness from God? Don't forget our key verse of **Colossians 3:13**: "*Bear with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you.*" (NEW CENTURY VERSION) The church would better serve the world if we were more forgiving. When you look into the mirror, do you see someone who is forgiving others?