

CHURCH OF CHRIST GULF SHORES

Sunday Morning Sermon on December 18, 2016 (by Ray Reynolds)

“Forgiving Like God”

Introduction: What does the Bible say about the forgiveness of God? There are eight passages that come to my mind:

- ▶ *He removes them as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103:12)*
- ▶ *He cleanses every stain (Isaiah 1:18)*
- ▶ *He throws our sins behind His back (Isaiah 38:17)*
- ▶ *He blots out our sins like a thick cloud (Isaiah 44:22)*
- ▶ *He remembers our sins no more (Jeremiah 31:34)*
- ▶ *He treads our sin under His feet and then casts them into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19)*
- ▶ *He will rescue us and redeem us (Colossians 1:13)*
- ▶ *He will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:7)*

All of these passages paint a virtual picture of what God is willing to do with our sin. All we have to do is confess it, lay it down at His feet, and refuse to pick it up again. However, that is just the first step in a long walk with God. The Lord intends for us to continue our walk with Him. This means that we have to take baby steps and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. This includes forgiving others for their sins against us. How can we learn to forgive like God? Here are a few things we can consider...

Discussion:

- 1) Resolve Quickly (Matthew 5:23-24)*
- 2) Criticize Carefully (Matthew 7:1-5)*
- 3) Reconcile Personally (Matthew 18:15-17)*
- 4) Love Intentionally (Romans 12:9-21)*
- 5) Unify Peacefully (Ephesians 4:1-3)*
- 6) Decide Daily (Ephesians 4:26-27)*
- 7) Forgive Freely (Colossians 4:1-3)*
- 8) Pray Constantly (I Thessalonians 5:17)*

Conclusion: How has the forgiveness of God impacted your life? Are you ready to forgive like God? The half-brother of Jesus said to be “*swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*” (**James 5:19**). This incorporates all of these important things. This is wonderful advice to a child of God. Let’s learn to be forgiving like God!