

Forgiveness: Why Should I Forgive?

Matthew 18:23-35

Couples Project

October 16, 2018

Part I - *To be completed separately before the message. You can begin at your leisure, but time will be given at the beginning of the meeting to complete this first portion.*

1. Think of some marriages that you admire or perhaps aspire to be like? What are some of the things that draw you to them? What are some attributes you see in them?
2. If you are born-again, what are 2-3 characteristics that described you before Christ? What are 2-3 words that describe how you feel about all you've been forgiven? Create two lists.
3. What would you say are some sticking points in your marriage relationship? Be gracious in how you write it down, but be specific.
4. On a scale of 1-10, how would you say that you do with forgiving your spouse? Please explain your answer. Then, on a scale of 1-10, how would you say your spouse does at forgiving you? Again, be gracious but explain your answer.

Part II - *To be completed separately after the message. Time will be given following the message to complete this second portion.*

1. What are two or three things you heard in the message that stand out to you as applicable to your marriage as it is currently?

2. Are there particular sins your spouse has committed against you that you are struggling to forgive? What are they? Why do you believe that is? How might this message address your reasons 'why'?
3. Rob highlighted three application points (Keep Yourself Grateful, Keep Your Spouse's Sin in Perspective, Don't Put Boundaries on Your Forgiveness). Which of those three does your marriage need most? Which do you believe your marriage does best?

Part III - *To be completed together within one week after the meeting. Take time where you can talk in an uninterrupted and unhurried way to complete the third portion of this project. (Time permitting, you can even begin this while at the meeting after completing Part II.) Feel free to use this worksheet however you wish. If you want a plan, consider the one below:*

1. Pray. Ask God for his help to keep your conversation fruitful and redemptive. If, at any point during the conversation you feel conflict brewing, stop and remember together that Christ means to be the center of the marriage and the conversation, not a conflict.
2. Take the time to share your answers from Question 1 in Part II. Realize that God may have spoken to each of you in different ways, seeking to address different things. Don't correct or critique. Simply inform and share God's activity during the message.
3. Review your answers to Questions 3 and 4 from Part I. It is likely your spouse has used different numbers than you have. Don't negotiate or debate the numbers. Seek to learn from the difference and apply to yourself.
4. Review your answers to Question 3 from Part II. Listen to one another share why they've answered in the way they have. Discuss potential first steps in moving toward that application.
5. Pray. Ask God to strengthen you with the might of his power as he fills your marriage with his Spirit. Ask him to forgive you for your contribution to any challenges and thank him for bringing you together as a couple. Pray that God would provide all of the help you need.