

The Spirit Of Forgiveness

Text: Ephesians 4: 29-32

1. Forgiveness Is God's Plan:

A. God Toward Man

*Not by Divine Fiat. He must Be Justified ("For Christ's Sake")

B. Man Toward Man

C. Man Toward Self (That's the Most Difficult!)

*Sin Scars the Conscience, the Heart

2. Forgiveness Is Giving up Hope of a Better Past:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.
(Romans 3: 23-26)

A. We All Have a past (Untouchable by Us!)

B. Only God Can Enter There! (No Past, No Future...)

3. Forgiveness Is Giving up the Right to Be Offended (Dr. Harold Sala)

A. True Forgiveness Cordially Forgets

B. Forsaking the "Hot-button" of past Grievances

*That Wound Which Reminds of Former Hurt

4. Forgiveness is God's Final Solution....

A. To a Heart That's Been Broken

B. To Bitter Disappointment of the Spirit

C. To Any Hope of Revenge

D. To Restless Hostility Against Unity

But, to Receive It, You must Learn to Give It!