

The Power of Forgiveness

Matthew 6:9-13

WHEN JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY, FORGIVENESS WAS AT THE CENTER OF THAT PRAYER

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

Everything that is authentic about living a real Christian life revolves around the power of forgiveness

ALL OF US HAVE A HEART-DEEP NEED FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The idea of asking the Lord to forgive you may seem outdated

The consequences of sin have not changed

Unconfessed sin is a problem for lost people

Heaven and Hell hang in the balance for those who refuse to repent and turn to Jesus

Unconfessed sin is equally dangerous in the life of a believer

There are two times when, as believers, we should ask God for forgiveness

On a daily basis

At the moment of conviction

"Against You, You only have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight."

Psalm 51:4

Unconfessed sin does not steal a Christian's salvation

While unconfessed sin does not steal your salvation, it does break your fellowship with Christ

Seeking forgiveness must always be accompanied by repentance

Repentance reveals a desire to turn away from sin and its consequences

WE HAVE A GODLY OBLIGATION TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

We are to forgive when an offense is real

It is not denying the pain; it is forgiving in spite of the harm that was done

Jesus set the example when He looked down from the cross, and saw the ones who had cried *"Crucify Him," as well as the soldiers gambling for His garments and prayed, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do."* Luke 23:34

Why is it so important to forgive?

It is obedience to Christ's command

It is following His example

By releasing others, you also release yourself

SHOULD WE FORGIVE FIRST OR ASK TO BE FORGIVEN FIRST?

This prayer is a statement of continuation

They both occur side by side

Forgiving and being forgiven are not either/or, but both/and

TRUE FORGIVENESS TRANSFORMS YOUR LIFE

To be forgiven is to be set free

To forgive is to free another

We are free to live in a way that is impossible apart from the power of forgiveness