

8/24/25

Sermon – A Follow-up on Forgiveness

Scripture – See Below

Main Message – Fill your conversation with the things of God

After last weeks message on Grace, Faith, and Deeds, one of the situations I used was on forgiveness. I got more than just a couple of statements/questions on that component and so I knew that more had to be said. Forgiveness, Relationships, Family, and Friends can make up a very complicated mixture of joy, happiness, and love along with frustration, dread, and gut-wrenching trials.

This is ultimately the fallout of living in a world broken with sin, The further humanity moves away from God, the worse its going to get. First thing I must say is this. Christians are not called to live a life of isolation or to exist only as a hermit. Christians are called to live a lifestyle on full display and to share the Gospel through their faith and through their good deeds. Here is your scripture references. **Mathew 5:14-16, Mark 16:15, Hebrews 10:24-25. Galatians 6:9-10.** These are spoken of Jesus and there are many others, so lets put to rest the idea that we can just live for ourselves. That would not be authentic Faith and belief in what Jesus did on the cross.

Now there is other wisdom from the Bible that we cannot ignore. Consider **1st Corinthians 15:33 -34 KJV, Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God, I speak this to your shame.** The NIV says, bad company corrupts good manners. A wise person should take care about the company they keep whenever possible. It can drag you down into the quagmire of sin if you are not careful. You will come out feeling emotionally dirty at best. Here is some scripture to consider. Proverbs 18:2, Pro 22:24-25, Pro 26:4-5. Pro 21:23, Pro 17:14. IF you are guided by the Holy Spirit you can see how the right way to handle difficult people depends on the person, the timing, the issues, and the combination of them all. Rarely have I ever gone in guns a blazing, but that is not to say it is never. Jesus also very rarely did it. You may recall the time Jesus rebuked Peter by saying to him in **Mathew 16:23, But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.** I don't recommend that course of action unless you have a strong, long-standing relationship. However, the point that as a Believer, your priority are the things of God and not the things of man can and should be emphasized often. Done well, with kindness, you will find that the relationship may start to evolve. Bringing Christ into the equation is a sure way to do one of two things: Draw them to Christ, or push them away. Both is acceptable. Why? Because that is how Jesus lived. He spoke the truth, healed the sick, helped the needy, but he never chased after someone that turned away and departed after hearing the truth. That was their choice.

Let's discuss family specifically for a minute. We don't get to pick our family and that can bring a deeper challenge in most cases. Let me read this to you. **Mathew 12:46-50.** Those who are authentic believers in Christ make up your eternal family. Your earthly family, if they resist, or dismiss a relationship with Christ, that should be your indication that you will always have a strained relationship. HOWEVER, do not loose sight of the fact that you also had a time when you also did not have a relationship with Christ. Patience as Our Father has been patient is crucial. Firmness regarding your faith is as important as well. I say, "death to small talk," because life is short and I don't have time for that. Forgiveness does not mean everyone is going to be your friend, or your family. Forgiveness means you are putting Christ at the center.