

Got Forgiveness? (Matt 18)

This is Why Christ Came! (Lk 19:10)

He Came because He loved us! (1Jn 4:19) (Rom 5:8)

I. How to Deal with Offenses: (Matt 18:15-20)

ONLY Speak to the person who Offended You!

(Prov 13:10) *Only by pride cometh contention:*

Conflict Resolution: (Jam 1:19)

“Swift to Hear!” Seek to Understand:

“Slow to Speak!” (Prov 15:1) Seek to be Understood:

“Slow to Wrath!” - (Prov 15:18) (James 1:20)

Seek the “Win/Win”: (Rom 12:21)

Admit to your part of the wrong: (Matt 18:15) (Prov 6:3)

If you are the Offended: (Matt 18:16-17)

If you are the one who Caused the Offense:

Remember, It’s about Relationships! (Matt 18:18-20)

II. What about Repeat Offenders

(Matt 18:21)(Matt 18:22)

We are to forgive. (Lk 17:3-4) (Matt 10:16)

How do I forgive? You need Grace. (Heb 4:16)

III. Forgiveness has 2 parts: Mercy & Grace:

(Matt 18:23-34)

Got Forgiveness? (1 Jn 1:9)

BUT HOW DO I FORGIVE Others?

Step 1: Forgiveness is an act of Obedience by Faith

Forgiveness is Releasing them from the Debt they owe.

Forgiveness is Dropping the Burden of the Debt they owe.

Step 2: We Have to be Empowered by God: That’s Grace!

(Heb 4:16) (Matt 18:35)(Matt 6:14-15)

Step 3: Asking the Spirit to heal the pain of the offense.

(Ps 119:165)

Forgiveness tasks:

1. Ask the Spirit to remind us of those who have hurt us.
2. Ask the Spirit to remind us of the pain we have caused our brethren.
3. Ask the Spirit to help them to forgive us that their joy and ours might overflow our spirit with God’s forgiveness.
4. Ask them to forgive you.
Our wounded pride binds God’s Grace. (Matt 18:18)

So how do we keep our children from getting bitter?

1. **Emphasis the importance of forgiveness & not becoming bitter.** (Rom 8:28-29)
2. **Set an example of forgiveness:**
 - a. **Deal with your baggage 1st:**
 - b. **Clear the record with each of your child’s infractions-** ie. Don’t Stay Angry with them!
 - c. **Make sure the punishment fits the Crime.**
Christ set the example for us! (Lk 23:34)
 - d. **Ask for Grace=Super Natural Enabling:** (Heb 4:16)

3. **Teach your children how to control their own angry natures:**

- a. **Help them understand their sin nature:** (Gal 5:17)
- b. **Changing Environment won't help!** (Gal 5:19-21)
- c. **Teach them the Personal Responsibility of Self-Control!**
 - i. *Teach them to deal with is properly!*
 - ii. *No Temper Tantrums*
 - iii. *It's not life or death-Unless it is Life or Death!*

4. **Do everything possible to stay married!**

5. **Keep the lines of communication open!**

(Eph 4:25-27, 29)

- a. **Don't let them clam up!**
- b. **Vs 26 Stay up all night if you have to, to resolve it!**
- c. **Vs 29 "Edifying" *Illus: They hear the criticism, but do they ever get praised?***

6. **Take God's Negative commands Seriously:**

(Col 3:21)

- a. **Don't abuse your position of authority:**
 - i. **Keep your anger under control:** James 1:20
 - ii. **Keep you discipline consistent**
 - iii. **Really listen when they speak!**

7. **Train them to Forgive & Seek Forgiveness:**

(Prov 22:6)

- a. **Train them to obey as God would have them:**
- b. **Train them to run to seek reconciliation!**

8. **Encourage them to receive God's Grace to overcome Anger and Bitterness!** (Titus 2:11-13)

- a. **Teach them to receive God's grace in Salvation**
 - b. **Teach them to receive God's grace to choose a different response to Offenses they face.**
 - c. **Teach them to receive God's grace to forgive themselves.**
 - d. **Teach them receive God's grace to forgive others – STARTING WITH YOU!**
9. **The best way to keep them from getting bitter, is YOU Don't GET Bitter!**

Do you **Got Forgiveness?**