

The Lord's Prayer

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Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

Matthew 6 and Luke 11 – Passage turns on our forgiveness of those who trespass against us

Discussion turns on the definition and understanding of forgiveness

Three parts of the “Lord’s prayer”

1. Honor and worship to God - worship
2. Requests for us
 - Daily bread – physical health
 - Forgive as we forgive – emotional health
 - Deliver from evil – Spiritual health
3. Benediction and blessing to God - praise

Forgive us as we forgive

I. The attitude of forgiveness

Love and longing for restoration of broken fellowship

II. The process of forgiveness

See notes below

III. The results of forgiveness

Reconciliation and restoration to fellowship

The Process of Forgiveness

God		Humanity
Offended		Offender
Truth/Confront		Truth/Confess
Die on Cross		Repent
Forgiveness		Forgiven
You	> Reconciliation >	Offender
Offended		Offender
Truth/Confront		Truth/Confess
Death of flesh/Retaliation		Repentance
Forgiveness		Forgiveness

We must not confuse the process of forgiveness with the need to love enemies
Proverbs 27:6 – faithful are the wounds of a friend but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful
Matthew 3:8 – display behaviors worthy of repentance
Matthew 16:17 – blessed Peter, 16:23 – rebuked Peter
Galatians 4:16-18 – truth, zealous enablers lacking knowledge
Genesis 45 - Joseph

To forgive too easily and quickly without healing and restoration is not forgiveness
Living with layers and images is defensive and protection
“Sorry I offended you” -no acknowledgment of guilt or wrong – is false forgiveness
Some people are difficult to live with because they require constant forgiveness –
If these people are not confronted they will never grow out of their immaturity
Lords prayer does not remove the conditions of Matthew 18:21-35

Asking for Forgiveness means:

- Acknowledge debt
- Acknowledge inability to pay
- Acknowledge desire for Forgiveness

We cannot excuse other’s behavior and then think that God will therefore excuse our behavior
We cannot excuse other’s wrong behavior if we really love that person with agape love
How is love demonstrated?

- Jesus to Nicodemus- John 3
- Jesus to Peter – John 21

Love, attitude of Forgiveness, confess, tell the truth, reach out, let go of offense, grieve the loss
acknowledge, confess, repent, bussfertigkeit, restitution
Goal is harmony and reconciliation
Result is Spiritual and emotional health
Contrast Psalm 51 (David) with I Samuel 15 (Saul)

Recommended reading

Matthew 18:15-20

Caring Enough to Forgive – Caring Enough to Not Forgive, David Augsburger

Encouragement, Crabb and Allender

Total Forgiveness, Kendall