

# Freedom

Our Priorities: Love God, Love one another, Live the mission

Current series: Love one another (John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you...")

## HOW TO love one another:

1. Love Jesus
2. Befriend the confused
3. Esteem one another
4. Edify one another
5. Forgive \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 6:14** "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

<sup>15</sup> "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

**Matthew 19:21** Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup> "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

<sup>24</sup> "And when he had begun to settle *them*, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents.

<sup>25</sup> "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

<sup>26</sup> "The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.'

<sup>27</sup> "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

<sup>28</sup> "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'

<sup>29</sup> "So his fellow slave fell down and *began* to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

<sup>30</sup> "He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

<sup>31</sup> "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved

and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me.

<sup>33</sup> 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?'

<sup>34</sup> "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

<sup>35</sup> "So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

## How to forgive:

### 1. Follow **J** \_\_\_\_\_ **example**

**1 Peter 3:21** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

<sup>22</sup> who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

<sup>23</sup> and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

**Ephesians 4:31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

<sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

**5:1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

<sup>2</sup> and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

### 2. Consider **m** \_\_\_\_\_ **need of forgiveness**

**Romans 2:1** Therefore you are without excuse, every man *of you* who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

<sup>2</sup> And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

<sup>3</sup> And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the judgment of God?

<sup>4</sup> Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

**3. Try to u\_\_\_\_\_ the offender**

**Colossians 3:12** And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

**4. Base forgiveness on g\_\_\_\_\_ alone**

**5. Choose to r\_\_\_\_\_ the debt and the offender to God**

**Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.

...<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

<sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

<sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**6. Trust debt c\_\_\_\_\_ to God**

**7. Don't c\_\_\_\_\_ interpersonal and institutional forgiveness**

**8. A\_\_\_\_\_ on forgiveness = do what love dictates**

9. Remember that God has good p\_\_\_\_\_ in this challenge

10. Remember the b\_\_\_\_\_ of forgiving and the high cost of unforgiveness

**HOW TO love one another:**

1. Love Jesus
2. Befriend the confused
3. Esteem one another
4. Edify one another
5. Forgive
6. Protect and correct
7. reconcile and restore

**1 Peter 4:8** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

**Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.

**Matthew 18:1** At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2</sup> And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,

<sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

<sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup> "Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

<sup>8</sup> "And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the eternal fire.

<sup>9</sup> "And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out, and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into the fiery hell.

<sup>10</sup> "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "*For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.*

<sup>12</sup> "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?

<sup>13</sup> "And if it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.

<sup>14</sup> "Thus it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

<sup>15</sup> "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

<sup>16</sup> "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

<sup>17</sup> "And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer.

<sup>18</sup> "Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup> "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

<sup>20</sup> "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

**Galatians 6:1** Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

<sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

<sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

<sup>4</sup> But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

<sup>5</sup> For each one shall bear his own load.

**2 Timothy 2:24** And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,

<sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

<sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.