

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why must we forgive?
2. How must we forgive? How often?
3. Is it more difficult to ask for forgiveness or to forgive when asked?
4. Will God require full payment for our trespasses if we do not forgive others?
5. What are the results of forgiveness?
6. Why are people so slow in seeking forgiveness? In forgiving?

SUMMARY:

Forgiveness requires much grace from God and humbles a proud heart. Sometimes we may find it easier to ask for forgiveness than to forgive one who has trespassed against us. We must forgive in our heart immediately, but do we? Christ said we must forgive our brother 490 times, which is more often than shall ever be required of anyone. Jesus said that we shall find the same kind of forgiveness in the Kingdom of Heaven, in the same way we also forgive. To err is human, to forgive is divine.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

September 14, 2025

Third Quarter

FORGIVENESS

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 18:15-35

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of Capernaum, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.

TIME: Approximately 32 A.D.

- I. A PATTERN FOR FORGIVENESS.** Matthew 18:15-22
 - A. Good for Evil. Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:20
 - B. Forgiveness. Mark 11:25-26; Luke 17:3-4; Colossians 3:13
- II. A DEMONSTRATION OF FORGIVENESS.** Matthew 18:23-27
 - A. Mercy Sought. Psalm 51:1; Luke 18:13
 - B. Compassion. Luke 10:33-34; Acts 16:33
- III. A FAILURE IN FORGIVENESS.** Matthew 18:28-30
 - A. Extortion. Ezekiel 22:12; Matthew 23:25
 - B. Violence. Ezekiel 8:17-18
 - C. Pitiless. Proverbs 21:13; Luke 10:31-32
- IV. THE PRINCIPLE OF FORGIVENESS.** Matthew 18:31-35
 - A. Retribution. Matthew 23:35; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30
 - B. Recompense. Ezekiel 7:3-4; Hebrew 2:2

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE YE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU.* Ephesians 4:32

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Romans 14:1-23; 15:1-7

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 1 Samuel 26:1-25; 2 Samuel 9:1-13;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

QUARTERLY THEME: Marks of a Christian

TOPIC: CONSIDERATION

INTRODUCTION:

As children of the kingdom of God, we desire to have our hearts filled “with righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.” But if we see some other child allowing himself things which we do not think are God’s will, it disturbs us and we are prone to judge or criticize him. This causes us to lose the righteousness, peace and joy in our own hearts and we come under God’s judgment. Therefore, we must bear with the other’s weakness or shortcoming. Pray for him, but do not let his weakness disturb our inner peace. We cannot see into his heart nor know all his temptations.

But let none of us be guilty of causing another child to stumble, to lose his righteousness, peace and joy, by permitting our weakness, or liberty, to offend him. Rather we must learn to deny ourselves even that which we feel we have the liberty to do.

We must also remember that just to overlook what another person does and call it a weakness is the easy way out. We have a responsibility to help such a person. We are to teach and admonish one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. (Colossians 3:16) If they are transgressing against God’s Word, we need to teach them what God’s Word says and point out the right way lest they perish in the things they allow themselves. There must be a separation from the things of the world if we are to be children of God.

CENTRAL TRUTH: In all our dealings with others, we should consider their welfare and benefit.

GOLDEN TEXT: LET US THEREFORE FOLLOW AFTER THE THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE, AND THINGS WHEREWITH ONE MAY EDIFY ANOTHER.
Romans 14:19

Consideration for fellow-believers is a timely topic today when we have so many differences in convictions as to what our freedom in Christ will allow, also as to what is doctrine and what is tradition. May the Holy Spirit guide us that we might not offend those who would hold to the truths delivered to us by the fathers.

Young people, especially in this day of changing moral values, are inclined to desire changes, but as we and they also, grow older our understanding changes and we see things in a different light. Sometimes it is then with heavy hearts that we realize it is too late to go back to the old values. We could learn much from the experiences of the Israelites who also went down this path and suffered much as a result.

“It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” (Romans 14:21)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 15 – 21

Mon. Consideration for the Unworthy. 1 Samuel 26:1-11
Tue. Consideration for the Unlikely. 2 Samuel 9:1-13
Wed. *Christian Differences. Romans 14:1-6
Thu. *Christian Consideration. Romans 14:7-16
Fri. *Christian Action. Romans 14:17-23
Sat. *Christ’s Example. Romans 15:1-7
Sun. Christian Restraint. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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