

“Forgiving”

Eph. 4:31-32

Introduction

- I. The need to forgive is paramount in the life of a Christian.
- II. He must remember that he has been forgiven, and therefore he should forgive likewise.
- III. Let us examine some aspects of forgiveness so that we can be sure that we are faithful in this area.

Discussion

- I. Christians must not hold grudges against other people (Eph. 4:31-32).
 - A. If we are not careful, we can allow ourselves to believe that a grudge is justified.
 - B. Paul made it clear that “bitterness”, “wrath”, “anger”, “clamour”, “evil speaking”, and “all malice” are to be “put away” from ourselves.
 - C. He who holds a grudge destroys himself from the inside (Matt. 22:37-40; cf. Prov. 19:11).
- II. Christians must not be vengeful (Rom. 12:17-21).
 - A. Under the Old Law, the Israelites were to refrain from vengeance against one another (Lev. 19:18).
 - B. Vengeance belongs to God, not to man (Deut. 32:35; Psm. 94:1; Heb. 10:30).
 - C. Jesus demonstrated great restraint in deferring vengeance (1 Pet. 2:23).
- III. Christians must forgive those who repent (Matt. 18:21-22).
 - A. God will not forgive a man unless he repents (Luke 13:3; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 - B. Likewise, godly people (Christians) must follow the example of God (Luke 17:3-4; cf. Matt. 6:12; 18:23-35).
 - C. When God forgives, it is no longer held against a man (Psm. 103:12; Micah 7:18-19).
 - D. What if I feel as if I cannot forgive (Joseph Gen. 50:14-21; Jesus Luke 23:34).

Conclusion

- I. Christians should be known as forgiving people.
- II. We rejoice that our sins are forgiven, and we should teach others how their sins can be forgiven too.