

A Home Full of Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 2:6-11

Introduction:

- Many homes are “**shame**-based” in the way they function.
 - This means that an individual is given the message that he is defective and inadequate as a human being.
 - Members of the family use shame as a tool to **control** the behavior of other members.
- Many times this is done by bringing up **past** offences, again and again.
- Oh, the blessing and freedom of Biblical forgiveness! It is liberating to the entire family.

Why is forgiveness such an important issue in the home?

1. Because unforgiveness will allow **Satan** to get a foothold in your home - vs. 11

- The word “device” means “purpose.”
- Satan wants your home to be a place of spiritual **bondage**.
- Unforgiveness is one of his primary **tools** he uses to bring this bondage.

2. Because unforgiveness can *destroy* members of your family - vs. 6-7

- “Swallowed up” literally means “to *drown*.”
- Paul is saying, “You’re going to discourage that young man and he is going to drown in sorrow.”
- This is happening in so many Christian homes.
- Paul said that not only should we forgive the guilty, but we should comfort them (to call near, invite), and *confirm* our love toward them. vs. 8
- You may think that your unforgiveness and bringing up the past keeps them in line, but in reality, it simply *drives* them from you and destroys their life.

3. Because unforgiveness damages your testimony for *Christ* - vs. 8-9

- As Christians, our homes should *reflect* none other than the person of Jesus Christ.
- If your home was a billboard, what would it look like? It should look like the *grace* of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Our homes should be places of *joy*.
- But unforgiveness will stifle this because it is the enemy of the home.
- Next week, we will explore what true Biblical forgiveness entails.