A Home Full of Forgiveness
part 2

Introduction:

- Because Christians are the most *forgiven* people in the world, we should be the most *forgiving* people in the world.

- In this message, we will learn the meaning of true Biblical forgiveness.

First, we need to understand what Biblical forgiveness IS NOT. Ephesians 4:31-32

Forgiveness is NOT a *feeling*.

1. It is an act of the *will*.

2. Feelings are conditional and change with the wind; *truth* never changes.

Forgiveness is NOT *forgetting*.

1. Forgetting is a *passive* process in which a matter fades from memory merely with the passing of time.

2. Forgiving is an *active* process; it involves a conscious choice and deliberate course of action.

Forgiveness is NOT *excusing*.

- The very fact that forgiveness is needed and granted indicates that what someone did was *wrong* and inexcusable.

Second, lets understand what Biblical forgiveness IS.

Forgiveness is a *decision*. Colossians 3:13

1. To forgive someone means to **release** them from the liability of suffering further punishment or penalty.

    - Scriptures for study: Matthew 6:12, 18:27; Luke 7:41-42; 2 Corinthians 2:6-7

2. Remembering what **Christ** did to purchase our forgiveness should be our greatest incentive to release others from the penalties they deserve. 1 Peter 2:24-25

Forgiveness involves four promises (taken from God's example in Ephesians 1:1-9):

1. I will no longer **dwell** on this incident.

    - His grace now abounds towards us. vs. 7-8

2. I will not bring up this incident again and **use** it against you.

    - God redeems us from past sins. vs. 7

3. I will not talk to **others** about this incident.

    - God deals directly with us as His children. vs. 5, 9

4. I will not allow this incident to stand between us or **hinder** our relationship.

    - God not only forgives, He blesses us beyond measure. vs. 3

- One of the most difficult places to practice Biblical forgiveness is the home. Why is this?

- Because those we **love** the most can hurt us the most.