

A Home Full of Forgiveness

part 3

Introduction:

- A spiritually **healthy** home is one where God's grace and forgiveness abound.
- Maybe you are struggling with unforgiveness. In this morning's message, we will examine several Biblical principles that will assist you as you seek to overcome unforgiveness.
- *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* **Ephesians 4:32**

Confirm **repentance**.

- When a person has sinned against you, it is difficult to forgive that person if he/she has **failed** to repent and confess his/her sin.
- It may be wise to explain to the person who has wronged you why you are having a difficult time forgiving.

Recognize and turn from **sinful** attitudes and expectations.

- Many times we withhold forgiveness because:
 - We believe the offender must **earn** or deserve our forgiveness.
 - We want to punish the offender and make him/her **suffer**.

→ We want him/her to guarantee us that the offense will **never** occur again.

- These attitudes and expectations are utterly inconsistent with the command of Ephesians 4:32.

Assess *your* own contribution to the problem.

- In many cases, your **sins** may have contributed to a conflict.
- *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”*
Galatians 6:1

Remember *God’s* forgiveness.

- The quickest way to overcome an unforgiving attitude is to focus your attention on how much God has **forgiven** you. Matthew 18:21-35

Draw on *God’s* strength.

- As you rely on Christ in you and depend on His strength, you can forgive the most **painful** offenses.
Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 3:16, 19-20

- Unless a deliberate effort is made to **restore** and strengthen a relationship, it will generally deteriorate.
- Forgiveness and reconciliation are so much **better** than bitterness, conflict, anger, and animosity.