

## Applying Mercy and Forgiveness

### **Colossians 3:12-13**

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

For we are human and we make mistakes. None of us are above making mistakes!! And there be some among the world that deliberately treat you unfairly or unjustly. But, what does the scriptures teach us?

### **Matthew 5:44-45**

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Every one of us have made mistakes and as long as we are in this earthly tabernacle we will continue to make mistakes. This including the 5 fold ministry. The Pastor is human, the preacher and teacher is human. And there is no human being alive today that is infallible. There are none of us who are perfect. We all have our faults and we all have our regrets.

### **Matthew 18:21-22**

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

Which is 490 times we are to forgive our brother if he sins against us. And if we are to forgive our brother 490 times if he sins against us, how oft will the Lord forgive us if we sin against him?

The scriptures teach us that the free gift of righteousness is of many offences unto justification. (Rom 5:16) Because grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom 5:21)

How many of you are thankful for a faithful and just God? Who among you is without sin that Jesus did not give his life for to redeem? Who among you has never been in need of forgiveness? Who among you has never made a mistake and hurt someone else?

### **1 Peter 4:7-8**

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

But what about me? What about the wrong they have done to me? Forgiveness is the healing salve that you are looking for. Forgive one another of their faults and mistakes that they have done unto you!! Forgive them and pray for them!! Repent of your sins and let your own spirit be healed!!

### **Hebrews 12:15**

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Many being defiled and failing of the grace of God because they have become bitter!! They have become full of anger and hatred because they believe that they have been done wrong and will not show mercy nor will they give forgiveness to the one they are offended by. Even if this be God Almighty of which they have become bitter against because they believe they have been done wrong by him, or allowed of him to suffer their present circumstances.

### **Hebrews 10:28-29**

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

But we are not of those that look back!! We are not of those who are treading under foot the Son of God and who are counting the shed blood of Jesus Christ an unholy thing!!

### **Matthew 6:14-15**

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Why are you judging and condemning one another? Why are you speaking ought against those of whom Christ died for?

### **Luke 6:37**

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

### **1 John 2:11**

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

### **Matthew 5:23-34**

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

**Matthew 18:15-17**

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Now that you here the importance of being merciful and forgiving one to another, let's talk about what happens to you when you show mercy and forgiveness.

When you forgive yourself for your mistakes you eliminate self guilt.

The Apostle Paul while speaking to the Church at Corinth says:

**1 Corinthians 4:3-5**

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

When you forgive others you destroy the root of bitterness within yourself. You put an end to harboring a grudge against your brother.

**James 5:9**

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

When you forgive others you put an end to your anger toward them.

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour [an outcry (in notification, tumult or grief)], and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: [badness, i.e. (subject) depravity, or (active) malignity, or (passive) trouble]

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted [well compassionate, i.e. sympathetic], forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When you forgive others you bring peace to your mind.

**Colossians 3:15**

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

The ultimate goal you are trying to achieve when showing mercy and forgiveness is to apply it instinctively as soon as the wrong occurs.

**James 2:13**

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

The reason mercy rejoices against judgment is because that which should have been guilty is pardoned.

How many of you desire the judge you appear before to judge you harshly? And can you not show mercy unto another?

**Matthew 18:23-35**

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!! (Heb 10:31)

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. (Lam 3:22)

**Matthew 5:2-12**

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Let us give God praise for his great mercy and forgiveness that he has shown unto us.