

1 **WHY IS FORGIVENESS SO IMPORTANT ?**2 **Jesus:**

.....Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.

for if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your heavenly Father will not forgive your sins. (Matt 6:12 then 14&15)

3 **Peter:**

.....how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?

Up to seven times? Jesus answered:

I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times. (Matt 18:21,2)

4 **Paul:**

Eph 4:29-32

Col 3:13 & 14

5 **A. FORGIVENESS IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR HEALTH'S SAKE.**6 **B. FORGIVENESS IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID THE PRISON OF OUR PAST**7

a. If forgiveness is a whitewashing of wrongs, it is wrong itself. (Smedes)

8

b. Not to forgive is to be imprisoned by the past.

"Not to forgive is to yield oneself to another's control. If one does not forgive, then one is controlled by the other's initiatives and is locked into a sequence of act and response, of outrage and revenge, tit for tat, escalating always. The present is endlessly overwhelmed and devoured by the past" (Dick Innes)

9

* We need to forgive for our own sake.

* Sometimes forgiveness takes time.

* Really forgive.

* Problem of premature forgiveness.

* Forgiveness is a choice I make.

10 **C. WE NEED TO FORGIVE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.**

* Many close relationships.....

* The real problem: Resentment in us, not the other person's failure.

* For us to be friends.....

11 **D. WE NEED TO FORGIVE FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO BE OURS.**

Matt 5: 12 then 14&15

* Forgiveness frees and heals the forgiver.

* What do these verses mean??

* An unforgiving spirit.....

* As we forgive, we learn of our own character flaws against God.

12

In relation to these He says:

I FORGIVE YOU