

1  **Forgiveness in God's family**2 **Introduction**

Phyllis speaks:

- a. Forgiveness is a tough ask – hard to DO
- b. The truth commission in Sth Africa.
- c. What lies behind Peter's 7 times' question ?
- d. Jesus and His parables. The new Kingdom.
- e. Did Jesus have a right to speak on forgiveness ?
Isaiah 52:32 - 53:1-12.

3 **Jesus presents to us the new Kingdom****'The Kingdom of God'**

** The new society has values essentially different to earthly institutions.

** The new "Jesus community" is the community of the redeemed.

** It owes its existence to the forgiveness made possible by the Messiah's death.

** We are the community of the forgiven.

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Key idea:

If forgiveness is not at the heart of our character – then the reason for our being ceases to exist.

(When we are most sharply aware of our own sin, we are most likely to forgive others.)

5 **THINGS TO NOTE:****1. Forgiveness in the Church in Paul's letters.**

Romans 12:9-19	living sacrifices'
1 Cor 12 & 13	life by the Spirit'
2 Cor 5:11 -21	reconciliation'
Gal 5:16 – 6:10	life by the Spirit'
Eph 4:22-32	children of light'
Phil 2:1-4	imitating Christ'
Col 3:12-17	rules for holy living'
1 Thess 5:8-11	children of the light

6 **2. Personal forgiving.**

* clear directions in Matt 18:15-17

'If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses'. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.'

* Andy Mathis' testimony.

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The issue of communication in personal forgiveness:

7% of your message is verbally communicated.
93% is non-verbally communicated.

Of that, 38% is through vocal tones
55% is through facial expression.
(info@selectassesstrain.com)

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3. Forgiveness is a qualitative issue, not a quantitative one.

- * Jesus : 70 X 7
- * To forgive has to do with love and healing.
- * See my bulletin notes on "forgiving yourself "
- * The ultimate goal is reconciliation – as long as it takes, because forgiveness is about relationship.

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4. Forgiveness is ultimately set in the context of :

■ DIVINE GRACE. "The Kingdom of Heaven is like....."

- * Our own knowledge of God's forgiveness is the only real basis of forgiveness.
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- * It is this awareness of our own forgiveness that keeps us from audacity in relation to others.

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* In reality we only extend God's love and forgiveness.

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- * Forgiveness conditions one to forgive others because we are forever accountable for our privilege of freedom.

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Prepare for next week.

- * Blue/white sheets. (write your letters to Jesus)
- * Sign in to the 24 hr. prayer focus.
- * Deal with all issues that touch you.
 - # personal hurts.
 - # this church family.
 - # previous church experiences.
 - # previous experiences.