

Forgiving One Another

Introduction:

- A. Tell how holding a grudge almost destroyed Johnny.
- B. How many of us hold a grudge toward another person? - Ephesians 4:31-32
- C. What should our attitude be toward those who do wrong to us'?
- I. Should we hold a grudge?
 - A. definition: "a feeling of deep-seated resentment or ill will" (**Webster's Third New International Dictionary**, unabridged. 1:1005)
 - B. We should never hold a grudge. - Ephesians 4:31-32; e.g., Homer Hailey's attitude toward the man who beat him up
- II. Should we seek personal vengeance?
 - A. definition: "punishment ... to avenge an injured person ... to inflict punishment on" (Thayer. 194).
 - B. We should never seek personal vengeance. - Romans 12:17-21
- III. Should we forgive them?
 - A. What is biblical forgiveness?
 - 1. definition: "primarily, to send forth, send away ..., to remit... (a) debts... these being completely canceled..."(Vine. 2:122)
 - 2. God's forgiveness is the model for ours. - Matthew 6:12
 - 3. When God forgives:
 - a. He forgets. - Hebrews 8:12
 - b. He restores lost fellowship. - Revelation 3:19-20
 - B. Should we forgive those who wrong us? - Matthew 18:21-35
 - C. Upon what basis should we forgive?
 - 1. on same basis God forgives us - Matthew 6:12
 - a. He seeks us. - Luke 19:10
 - b. We must seek Him. - Acts 17:27
 - c. We must repent. - Acts 3:19
 - 2. When one has been wronged.
 - a. The one wronged should seek the sinner. - Matthew 18:15-17
 - b. The sinner should seek the one wronged. - Matthew 5:23-24
 - c. The one who sinned must repent. - Luke 17:3-4

Conclusion:

- A. If Joseph could forgive his brothers, we can forgive each other. - Genesis 37; 50:14-21
- B. If God can forgive us, we can forgive each other. - Ephesians 4:32
- C. "If any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." - Colossians 3:13