



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 24, 2019

Heart to Heart...

You realize you have made a mistake by hurting another. What do many say as a result? “I’m sorry!” Some may say, “I apologize for that!” Still others speak, “Will you forgive me?” Have you ever given serious thought to what you are saying when using such phrases? These aren’t statements that are frivolous, are they? Some make such statements with such ease that it becomes more of “excuse me” after a sneeze!

When we ask for someone to forgive us because of something we did to them, do we really ask for forgiveness? Is it just a simple word with little thought? When we sin against another and ask for their forgiveness, it is the most revealing of our understanding in our relationship with the Lord. Forgiveness extended means someone has to pay a price. The person hurt has to decide if they will bear the pain allowing the sin to be put away from themselves. Sometimes it can be very difficult as we want justice to prevail and expect someone owning up to something. Forgiveness can be demanding by some. Forgiveness can be easy for others. Why?

Peter asked Jesus about forgiveness when one wrongs them (Matthew 18:21-35). Peter asks: “*Up to seven times?*” Luke’s account speaks of Jesus telling His disciples if one sins against you seven times a day and returns seven times saying, *‘I repent’*, you are to forgive them (Luke 17:4). Has anyone sinned against you seven times in one day? That is a strained relationship at best. What is Jesus teaching? What does He expect from each of us? To forgive as “*God in Christ also has forgiven you.*” (Ephesians 4:32) Forgiveness comes at a cost. The cost for us to be forgiven is Jesus Himself dying in our place. It cost Him His life as His blood poured forth. With that in mind, we need to be a people who knows how much we have sinned against God, how often we have asked for His forgiveness and for some many times a day. What does Jesus do if we are

repentant? Just read I John 1:9. If one has a soft heart asking for His forgiveness He forgives. We walk away free but it wasn't free. There was blood shed, a death took place for our forgiveness.

The very nature of God is to forgive. In His forgiving character, there are three different words He speaks describing our sins and His forgiving our sins. Sin, transgression and iniquities. ***“The Lord, the Lord God...who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin...”*** (Exodus 34:6-7) Sin is where one misses the mark or the goal by going aimlessly about. That's what it means when we read *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23) Transgression has the idea of rebellion. It is where one abruptly breaks away by over-stepping the path of God. It can include something done consciously and with intent. Iniquity is the guilt that results in our leaving the path or missing the mark. Iniquity can bend or twist the path of God and justify why it was done. When God speaks of not remembering our sins against us (Hebrews 8:12), God is taking upon Himself through Jesus the cost and hurt. God forgives completely. It's who He is and what He does.

How does the forgiveness of the Lord affect you? Does it lead you to be a forgiver? Are you one that just has a “I'm sorry” attitude with little thought to what you're asking?

Think about it!!!

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