

We Are Blessed When We Forgive

We are instructed by God's word to forgive others. In Eph 4:32 we read, "and be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you".

We have already experienced a great blessing when we have confessed our sins with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and heard and believed them forgiven in the name and blood of Jesus. We then have the joy and responsibility of proclaiming that same word unto other penitent sinners who confess their sins and ask forgiveness.

The word of God teaches also that there is a great blessing unto us when we forgive others for any hurt or wrong they may have committed unto us,. We are then freed from hatred and bitterness, and are blessed with joy and peace of heart. This includes not only forgiving others when and if they ask, but also forgiving them in our heart for any enmity WE may feel, even if they have not asked, and BLESSING them as well.

Many times in our life's journey, we may have had disagreements with others, sometimes unpleasant, leading to bitter feelings. This could have caused a root of bitterness, (Heb 12:15) to grow in our hearts and minds, resulting in unforgiveness and enmity toward others. Only through prayer and by God's grace can we be truly forgiving. This may be difficult for our human and fleshly heart because of pride, but will lead to a restoration of fellowship and love in obedience to God's word.

There is also great FREEDOM unto us in forgiving others. We are then free in our hearts to love them, rather than to allow that bitterness to spring up, which could keep us in the bondage of

unforgiveness and enmity.

We may have heard others say, or even thought this way ourselves, that we can forgive others for what they have done to us, but cannot FORGET those offenses. We need to put those offenses out of our heart just as our Heavenly Father, who forgives and does not remember our trespasses anymore.(Heb 8:12 "... and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more". Otherwise that root of bitterness can again grow in our heart.

We need to continue in a spirit of prayer that God would help us and direct our hearts by the Holy Spirit to be completely forgiving unto others, and even blessing them. Lord we ask this in Jesus's Name, Amen.

Al Wuori

Feb 5	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Feb 12	Chad Kuivanen	
Feb 19	Ken Storm	
Feb 26	Charles Korhonen	Potluck Meal following

Winter Schedule

Sunday School/Bible Study 9:45am Church at 11am
Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.

Reminder: Past sermons are archived from a link on our website <http://tapiolachurch.org/>. Click on 'Previous broadcasts' and then choose the sermon you would like to hear. You can advance thru the sermon by clicking on the white bar after clicking 'play'. Remember that the recording software is often started 5-10 minutes before church begins so you may wish to skip thru that blank time. Contact jmiller@mtu.edu if you have any questions.

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