

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/12/16 - Guest Speaker: Evangelist Scott Grande -  
Hindering God's Love Means Hindering Your  
Sanctification - Part 4

## **Matt 18:21-35**

Forgiveness and mercy allows God's love to flow through us, and when we bottle it up, it is evil in God's sight.

### **Living in pretense?**

You can't pretend to forgive your brother, and harbor bitterness without God knowing it.

### **A truly urgent matter**

After all, it's HIS love we are stopping the flow of! How can we be possessive with HIS love? And that after He freely poured it out on us in mercy! May it never be!

### **Forgiveness and the Heart**

God knows the heart, and whether we are surrendering, or pretending.

### **Applying Forgiveness**

Forgiveness is a must, if and when someone repents. Luk 17:3-4

### **Repentance for Forgiveness**

Repentance is such an important process in the soul, not for the one doing the forgiving, but in the soul of the guilty party. Their soul must "turn around" to be healed.

### **Applying Forgiveness**

Even though He died for the sins of the whole world, 1Jo 2:2, the Lord said unless people believe in Him, they will "die in their sins", John 8:21,24.

### **Repentance for Forgiveness**

This is why the Lord said in the beginning of His ministry "repent, and believe the gospel", Mar 1:15. And Paul followed suit in his pattern of giving the gospel, Act 20:21. He preached "repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ".

**The heart of God is to restore the broken, and so long as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.**

### **The Attitude of Forgiveness**

We have no right to hold back the limitless love of God, as He forgave us without limits.

### **Applying Forgiveness**

Repentance is what triggers the act of forgiveness by the one who loves God.

#### **William MacDonald**

*" The answer is that there are stages in the administration of forgiveness, as follows:*

*1. When a brother wrongs me or sins against me, I should forgive him immediately IN MY HEART (Eph 4:32). That frees me from a bitter, unforgiving spirit, and leaves the matter on HIS shoulders.*

#### **William MacDonald**

*2. While I have forgiven him in my heart, I do not yet tell him that he is forgiven. It would not be righteous to administer forgiveness publicly until he has repented. So I am obligated to go to him and rebuke him in love, hoping to lead him to confession (Luke 17:3).*

#### **William MacDonald**

*3. As soon as he apologizes and confesses his sin, I tell him that he is forgiven (Luke 17:4).*

### **The Evil of the Flesh**

When our brother comes up to us, asking for forgiveness, with a repentant heart, it is evil in God's eyes to reject him. That is when our own hearts need repentance, and God will see to it that we see our error. Mat 18:35

### **Humility is the Key**

These are issues of humility folks, on both sides of the aisle. By the guilty party in repentance, and by the innocent party in offering true forgiveness. Without humility, and realizing our place before THE Judge, none of this beauty and healing takes place, and the flow of God's love is hindered.

### **Passing on Forgiveness**

This is so important to the heart of God, that even though He has already forgiven our sins positionally, at the Cross, He will not forgive our sins experientially, in terms of sanctifying us, if we don't forgive others.

### **Passing on Forgiveness**

Experiential sanctification is hindered by our lack of faith, and lack of love. And this is seen in lack of forgiveness, and so God must hold us accountable. Though it will pain us, it's part of His grace plan to complete the good work in us.