

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

www.nccdighton.org

6/14/16 - Guest Speaker: Evangelist Scott Grande -
Hindering God's Love Means Hindering Your
Sanctification - Part 5

For-GIVE-ness

With ALL of us being sinners, and ALL of us needing God's mercy, we are motivated by His love to give freedom to others who have sinned against us.

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.

Applying Forgiveness

If people refuse God's offer, their free will is honored by God, and forgiveness will not be applied to them, even though their sins were paid for at the Cross.

The Attitude of Forgiveness

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

Applying Forgiveness

First of all, forgiveness should always be given in one's own heart. There's never a time that God doesn't want us to give it all over to Him, forgiving those who sin against us, no matter what.

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

For-GIVE-ness

Willingly grant forgiveness and mercy, from the heart, to allow God's love to flow through us fully, unhindered.

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

Prov 19:11

*A man's discretion makes him slow to anger,
And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.*

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.

Mark 11:25

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

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.

William MacDonald on Mat 5:44

"But now Jesus announces that we are to love our enemies and to pray for those who... persecute us. The fact that love is commanded shows that it is a matter of the will and not primarily of the emotions. It is not the same as natural affection because it is not natural to love those who hate and harm you. It is a supernatural grace and can be manifested only by those who have divine life."

Remember the Victory

Overcoming darkness was already done for us by Christ, so when we struggle

with certain things, we need to stop wrestling with those things and just turn to the Light. By turning to the Light, which is the Love of Christ, we defeat the darkness lurking in our lives.

Loving Our Enemies

It's not about us, and it's not even about them! It's about the Lord, and the immeasurable amount of forgiveness He has given us. And there is the miracle; the power of God in man!

"Pretend You're a Lightbulb"

"Pretend YOU'RE the light bulb. God's love desires to push grace through you so that you'll light up nice and bright. That brings glory to Him. To whatever degree you tap into His love, to that same degree you shall light up. As you grow spiritually, your light will shine brighter and brighter!"

"Pretend You're a Lightbulb"

"One of the great mysteries in the Word is that in order for you to fully experience God's grace (and therefore His love), you must allow it to pass THROUGH you."

Clinging to the wrong things:

Our looks, our hair, our skin, our bodies. Our reputation, our success, or standing in our families or communities. Our possessions, our money, our comforts in life that we think we "need". Our covert arrogance, so we don't have to be judged or called out for what's wrong in our lives.

"Be" a Vessel of His Love

Receive His love, and forgive your brother with it.

Receive His love, and love your enemies with it.

You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.