

THE SPARK OF FORGIVENESS

Text: Matthew 6:14-15

The greatest challenge to forgiveness is not limited to the big offenses that we experience. The greatest challenge to forgiveness, many times, is in being able to forgive the so-called little things that others do.

When we refuse to forgive, we divide and destroy every meaningful r_____ in our lives — including our relationship with ourselves and our relationship with God.

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. (Matthew 6:12 KJV)

If you want to walk in the fullness of God's forgiveness, you must be willing to forgive.

Here are the three attitudes of forgiveness that we need to latch on to

1. We choose to forgive because we have been forgiven. Ref: Ephesians 4:32

The forgiveness we extend to others begins with a c_____. Not an emotion. Not a feeling. A choice: I choose to forgive you, because in Christ I have been forgiven. We forgive by choice because we have been forgiven by grace. That's where forgiveness begins.

2. We forgive as many times as it takes to see it through. Ref: Mark 11:25

3. When you forgive, make it your objective to forget. Ref: Isaiah 43:25

We forgive by choice because we have been forgiven by grace.