

FORGIVENESS

Dr. David Shaw

Perspective

- **(Matthew 5:23, 24)** Forgiveness is a special virtue in God's sight because it is enabled by love.

Hope

- **(Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:8- 10; John 13:34, 35).** Love is the summary of the Old Testament law and is the central measuring rod for God. Therefore, the exercise of Biblical love brings meaning and fulfillment in life.
- **(Matthew 6:13, 14; I John 2:9; Luke 7:43).** Love cannot last long without a foundation of forgiveness: forgiveness from God when we fail to love with a pure heart, and forgiving when the recipient of our love spurns our love. But, obedience to God's Word where God continually covers our sin enables us to love in His power. A stunned and grateful heart is free to love because knowing He is so unlovely, yet is loved and freed to love others.

Change

- **(Romans 8:7; Romans 5:10; Titus 3:3; Romans 7:22, 23).** All of us have tried to live life apart from depending on God which blocks our desire to forgive others. The battle to subdue sin in us rages and is intense. However, God is greater.
- **(John 15:5; Matthew 6:24).** We are grafted into a new vine but it takes time for branches to grow and bear fruit.
- **(Romans 1:18; Hebrews 3:13; Revelation 3:15, 16).** We have the capacity to suppress truth. Sin, hatred of God or others is a defiant movement, sometimes unwittingly, other times quite conscious, refusing to depend on God for His direction and strength.
- **(I John 3:2).** The battle to replace hatred with love will be over only when we go to heaven. However, this is no excuse to let hatred bloom.
- **(James 4:1- 4).** Self-protection is the self-centered commitment to act without courage, compassion, boldness and tenderness for the sake of the other. Self-protection is a dangerous foe.
- **(Romans 12:9; Psalm 45:7; Philippians 4:8).** Our renewed hearts are built to cling to what is good and to hate evil.

Memory Verse: II Corinthians 10:3-5

Resources:

- THE FREEDOM AND POWER OF FORGIVENESS by John MacArthur
- BOLD LOVE by Dr. Dan Allender; Navpress 1992