

Forgive Compassionately

2.19.12

Ephesians 4:31-32

Sermon Discussion Questions:

- 1) Pastor Jim pointed out the difference between “managing anger carefully” and “forgiving compassionately”. What is the key difference?

- 2) What is the pattern of unforgiveness that Pastor Jim pointed out from Ephesians 4:31? Do you see any of these characteristics in your own life? If so, how? If someone has bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, or malice in their life, how can he or she get rid of it?

- 3) What do we risk when we forgive someone else? What do we risk if we don't forgive someone? Ultimately, what is the motivation behind forgiveness? How does the way God forgave us compel us to forgive others?

- 4) What does Matthew 5:21-26 say about the topic of forgiveness? Who is the person responsible for reconciliation (see verse 23)? What must that person do (see verse 24) and what would that look like in real life relationships? How is that similar or different to the message you heard this past Sunday?

- 5) What does Matthew 18:21-35 say about the relationship between God forgiving us and us forgiving others? Why can this be such a difficult truth? Does this mean that our salvation can be taken away (see also John 10:27-30; Romans 3:25, 4:1-5, 8:31-39; 1st John 5:13)? How do the ideas of eternal security (that our salvation cannot be revoked) and Matthew 18:21-35 work together?

- 6) Look at the context and surrounding passages to Matthew 18:21-35 (Matthew 18:1-21; 19:1-12). What ideas directly relate to the topic of forgiveness? How are they related?

- 7) Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? How can you make plans to do that immediately? Is there anyone you can think of who would benefit from hearing this message? How can you (lovingly and compassionately) share this with them?