

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is a continual problem in the body of Christ. The devil is constantly trying to divide to prevent true covenant unity as talked about in Psalms 133. We cannot forget that in covenant, we are tied not only to God, but also to the brethren (1 John 1:7); so much so, that what we do to them (in thought and action), we do to Him (Matthew 25:40). We are not to fight with flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12), but fight the devil's attempt to separate us from the brethren, restoring our brethren if they have bondages or problems they can't overcome (Galatians 6:1; 1 John 5:20).

We must forgive – we have no choice if we are to remain a faithful covenant people. If we come against a brother (a friend) of God, it puts us at enmity with God. That's why the Bible says that if we don't forgive, we are not forgiven:

Matthew 6:12

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Matthew 6:15

“But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

If necessary, we must be willing to go to great lengths not to separate from our brothers/sisters in Christ – this includes forgiving them repeatedly. In this way, we are willing to lay down our life for a brother (1 John 3:16):

Matthew 18:21-22

“Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”

God also wants to walk in the light with Him (1 John 1:7), confessing our disobedience so we can walk upright before Him. This demands being honest and calling things as He sees them, not as we want to rational them, or blame others. In fact, the Greek word for confess, in this verse, is *homologeō*, which means to say the same thing as. When we do this, we are cleansed, the sin is removed and we are no longer guilty in His eyes:

Psalm 32:5

“I acknowledged my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’; and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.”