FORGIVENESS

In a conversation with an elder several years ago, he said, “I believe one of the biggest problems with have with forgiveness is forgiving ourselves. I had to think on that a bit because it was a new idea to me. After a while I thought he might be somewhat right about that.

Sometimes the preaching we have done through the years might be partly responsible. We have convinced some people that the things they have done would face them in judgment.

Forgiveness is a fundamental part of biblical teaching. The word is found in some form 103 times in the American Standard Version of the New Testament. In those verses it speaks of the forgiveness of others, including those who do us wrong.

But since forgiveness is necessary for the Christian, it is also important that we observe that forgiveness not only affects others, but ourselves. Self-reproach for doing things we should not is a common thing with most of us. When the lack of forgiveness gets in our way, it hinders us from being the Christian we should be. Not forgiving ourselves makes us not want to be forgiving of others as well.

So in the great scheme of things we should understand that forgiveness will not only give us peace of mind, but will enable us to be more forgiving of others.

“Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, And whose sins are covered.” (Romans 4:7)

Not only is forgiveness necessary, it is necessary to forgive ourselves as we also forgive others.

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