

Modern Family Vintage Values: Family Forgiveness

(Colossians 3:13)

Introduction.

- A) Farmers know that certain crops won't grow in certain regions of the world. The atmosphere must be right for the plants to thrive.
- 1) For example, cotton grows in tropical and subtropical locations that do not have prolonged dry or wet seasons. In other words, not much cotton is grown in Canada.
 - 2) Oranges grow in tropical and subtropical locations that have warm to hot summers and mild winters. Minnesota is not known for its orange production.

The point is that crops thrive in the proper atmosphere, but will not thrive or even exist in the wrong atmosphere.

- B) Healthy relationships, especially marital relationships will thrive if the right relationship atmosphere is maintained. Your home must be permeated with forgiveness for healthy family relationships to thrive. There are no enduring family relationships without a boatload of forgiveness for both small and LARGE offenses.
- C) Contextualize this sermon in the series, "Modern Family, Vintage Values."
- D) Contextualize Colossians 3:13.
- E) We are flawed people that live in a broken world which results in imperfect relationships. We are flawed partners.

I. Basis for Forgiveness (Col. 3:13, Matt. 18:21-35)

Principle: *God's forgiveness of your sin debt is the basis for your forgiveness of others.*

A) Forgiveness Defined.

Forgiveness is the release of an emotional debt.

Charles Stanley writes, *“To forgive means ‘to give up all claims to punish or exact a penalty for an offense.’ No strings or conditions can be attached, or else it ceases to be a pardon.”*

B) Divine Forgiveness Illustrated (Matt. 18:21-30)

C) Divine Forgiveness Applied

II. Consequence of Unforgiveness

Principle: *Failure to demonstrate forgiveness to others will result in both current and eternal consequence.*

A) Temporal Consequence

B) Eternal Consequence

III. Practicing Forgiveness In The Home.

A) Forgiveness is the pardoning of a debt.

Charles Stanley writes, *“To forgive means ‘to give up all claims to punish or exact a penalty for an offense.’ No strings or conditions can be attached, or else it ceases to be a pardon.”*

- 1) Define what they owe you (an apology, money, etc.)
- 2) Release them from that debt (prayer)
- 3) Return to the choice as often as you need.

Sixteenth century writer, Thomas Watson wrote,

“We have forgiven when we strive against all thoughts of revenge. We will not wish our enemies mischief. When we wish them well. When we grieve for their calamity.

- B) Forgiveness is a choice. It is not feeling happy about it, it's not about relieving consequences, it's not about just being nice, it's about changing your attitude about the offender.
- C) Forgiveness is not a release from responsibility or consequence.
 - 1) A wife can forgive an unfaithful husband, but can still expect child-support.
 - 2) Be careful not to use the responsibility or consequence as a club to beat them with.
- D) Forgiveness is not the key to reconciliation, rather repentance is the key. Trust is earned.
- E) Time doesn't heal all wounds, but forgiveness paves the way.
- F) Some of you need to release God from some perceived offense against you.

Conclusion.