

Scriptural Discipline

Forgiveness

PALM SPRINGS BIBLE SCHOOL
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Great Men Of Faith

Jacob's deceptiveness and lying

Moses's questioning of God

Elijah's moments of doubt

David's weakness and terrible sins

Satan's denials



Scripture is NOT silent about these great men and their faults. They are recorded, often in great detail. Do you think less of these men because of their sins? Do you love them less? Do their sins tarnish for you their value as fathers and leaders?

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

The Divine standard for forgiveness

The purpose of human forgiveness

Is forgiveness always the same as reconciliation?

Forgiveness and reconciliation applied to Scriptural discipline

Topics Ahead

Matthew 18

Rebuke and Correction

Withdrawal

Delivering Unto Satan...

Restoration

Understanding forgiveness is at the core of each of these.

Where We've Been So Far

The Lord calls us to a life of holiness now – it is an expectation

A significant part of our fellowship is to support and assist each other away from sin and towards holiness

Eternal life is the matter at hand!

So, as we move on in our discussion of Scriptural discipline, **we must remember these foundations.**

Divine Standard Of Forgiveness

“Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardons iniquity (LXX – cancelling), and passes by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retains not his anger for ever, **because he delights in mercy**. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; He **will subdue our iniquities**; and thou wilt cast all (LXX - sink our iniquities) their sins into the depths of the sea.”

Micah 7:18-19

God's Recollection of David to Solomon

“And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:”

All Discipline For Us Is About Restoration

Forgiveness is a process of restoration – for **BOTH** the **offended** and **offender**

Must fundamentally acknowledge that the Lord is the Master of our lives

Forgiveness is a process that frees the offended by acknowledging that the Lord is in control

This then allows us to exhibit righteous behavior toward the offender so that we might be reconciled

Forgiveness

For our study on Scriptural Discipline...

Sins Against Me

Sins Against Our Lord

Both of these categories, if sins unto death,
apply to Matthew 18

Forgiveness Applied

sins against me (not sins unto death) – I can forgive and move on. **Reconciliation is not required.**

sins unto death – I must work with the offender to attempt to reconcile him to righteousness.

Reconciliation with the Lord is required. Eternal life is at risk.

Choosing Not to be Offended – Psa. 119:165

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” (margin – they shall have no stumblingblock). KJV

“Abundant peace have those loving Thy law, And they have no stumbling-block.” Young’s Literal Translation

Bro. J.M. Lovett, A Brother Offended, The Christadelphian, 1939

...we as brethren and sisters ought to promote the welfare of each other. And let it be remembered that this should be mutual.

if the offence is against one's person, it is perhaps better to make no notice of it. In any case, if no action is to be taken, no more should be said about it to anybody. If the offended does not speak to the offender, then he ought to let the matter drop, and not go up and down as a talebearer. Now this is just where our weakness comes in. While not liking to speak to the one who offends us, we don't mind telling others about the failing of our brother, nay, we have a secret pleasure in doing so... Now the law of Christ is designed to do away with all this."

Scriptural Sins “Not Unto Death”

Brethren not working and being busybodies

Those that cause divisions by poor use of Scripture

Those that are involved in genealogies, foolish questions, contentions about the Law

The unruly

The proud

Lacking love

In such cases, they were to be rebuked, corrected, even avoided. But they were not to be treated as sins unto death.

Sins Unto Death (1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NIV)

do you not know that
ongdoers will not inherit the
gdom of God? Do not be
ceived: Neither the sexually
moral nor idolaters nor
alterers nor men who have sex
h men nor thieves nor the
edy nor drunkards nor
nderers nor swindlers will
erit the kingdom of God.”

These MUST be dealt
with. Not for OUR
reconciliation, but for
the salvation of the
offender.

Works Of The Flesh

he acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, **that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**”

Galatians 5:19-20 NIV

Scriptural Vigilance

How rapidly do we respond to the possible awareness of sin unto death of a brother or sister?

Do we act with a conviction that this is about life and death?

How decisively do we take action when there is no expression of repentance?

Do we permit these sins to continue in our ecclesias, without adequate discipline?

We will discuss these questions in greater detail tomorrow, Lord Willing.

How Do We Forgive?

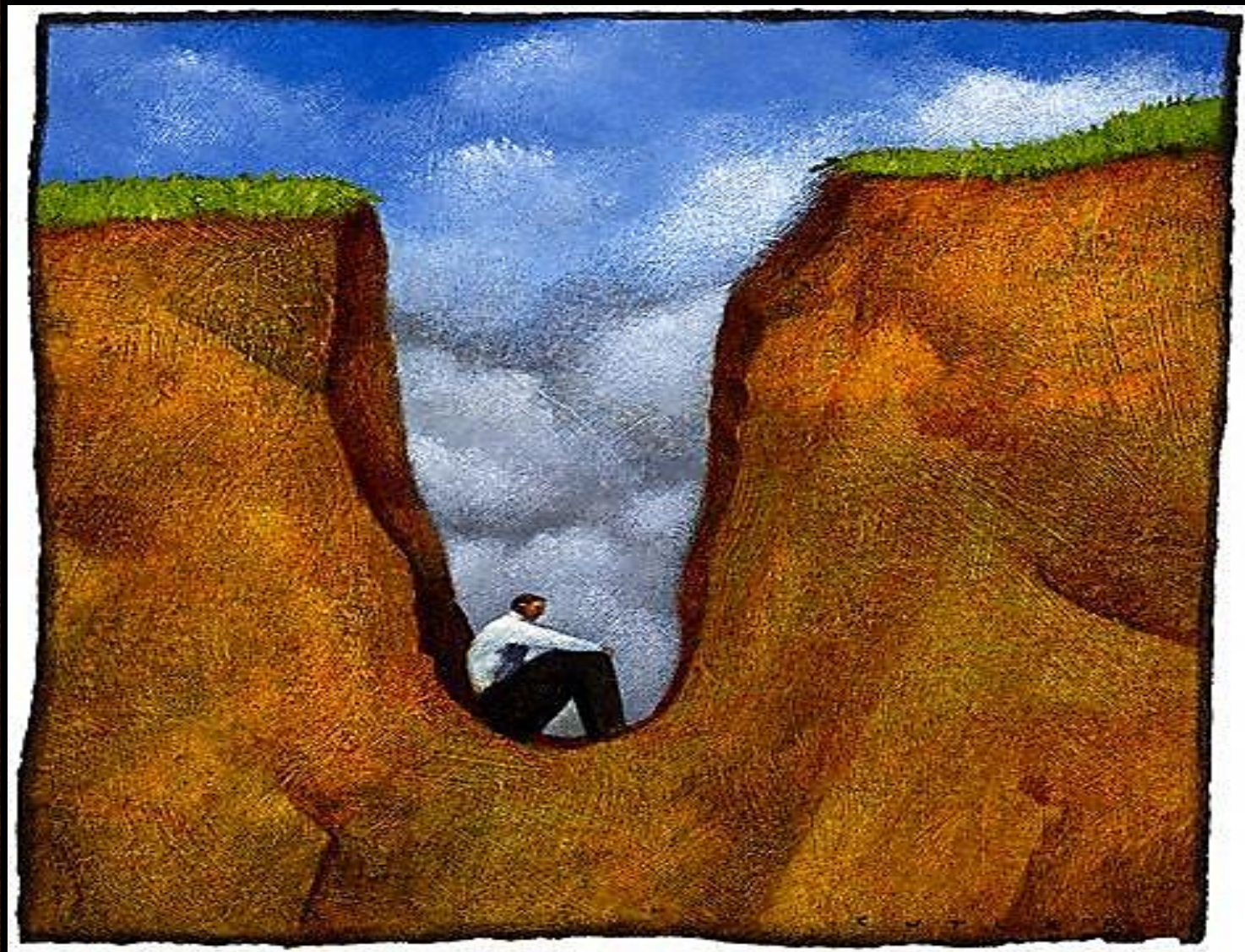


- Emotionally abused
- Unfairly maligned by a friend
- Double-crossed by business associates
- Wrongly accused at workplace
- Jilted by a spouse or loved one
- Betrayed by a loved one who is substance abuser

What Happens?

Offence is extremely painful, but not a “sin unto death”
A breach is created that can last a lifetime
Often these situations are never “made right”
It is possible that no reconciliation may be reached
We may, as the offended, “own” the pain
So – how can I interact with the offender in a Christ-
like manner when they have hurt me and they don’t
seem to care?

o Reconciliation And You Are Stuck!



A Couple Helpful Non-Scriptural Quotes

As long as you don't forgive, who and whatever it is will occupy rent-free space in your mind."

Isabelle Holland

Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future."

Louis B. Smedes

Forgiveness Without Reconciliation First is Scriptural!

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge."

"To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**" 2 Corinthians 5:19

If Forgiveness is Dependent on Reconciliation

The offended continues to bear the burden

The offended is driven for reconciliation at any cost to be freed of the emotional burden

The offended may have to pretend that the actions never happened and be subject to continued repetitions of the wrong behavior

In other words, you have not given it over to the Lord

What Is Required?

Even though no reconciliation and no repentance, you **CAN** do something

You can **forgive** by giving the situation over to the Lord and cast it up to him

You **trust that the Lord is in control** and if reconciliation is to occur, it will be because of the Lord working in your life and the offender's

This allows you to put aside your anger and resentment and not have it consume you

How Did Jesus Do It?

Face the cruel mocking?

Face the insults and inhumane treatment?

Face the false accusers?

Face the desertion of his beloved disciples?

Yet, he remained through the whole process a perfect reflection of love and his Father's character!

Lord's Example – A Surrender

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but **committed himself** to him that judges righteously.”

1 Peter 2:21-23

“committed himself” - *paradidōmi* - to *surrender*, that is, *yield up, entrust*

Commit The Keeping

Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God **commit the keeping** of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

1 Peter 4:19

“commit the keeping” *paratithēmi* - to place
alongside, that is, *present*;
by implication to *deposit*
(as a trust or for protection)

The Standard

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than* others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48

Changes Our View of Suffering

Nothing happens in the workplace that the Lord is not in full control.

The Lord is active in our closest and most important relationships

If we are falsely accused, when we suffer righteously, it is an offering to God

Hebrew and Greek Verbs

Forgiveness” – O.T. Words (*Brown-Driver-Briggs*)

nâ'/nâsâh - to lift, bear up, carry, take away, forgive

ach - to forgive, pardon, to be forgiven

phar - to cover, purge, make an atonement, make
conciliation, cover over, inside and outside with pitch
(Genesis 6:14)

Forgiveness Verbs – NT (Vine's)

aphiemi (noun – aphesis) – to send forth, send away. To deliver from a penalty.

charizomai – to bestow favor unconditionally

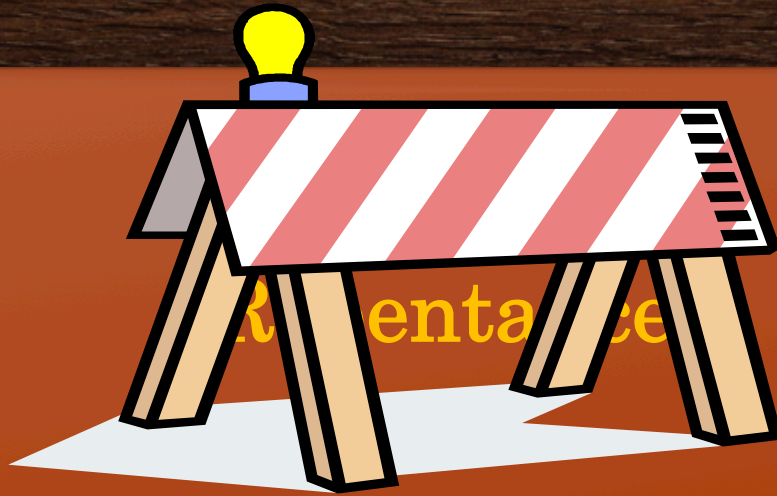
Two Modes of Forgiveness

phiemi - I cast this up to the Lord and give it over to him. I send it away. I will not hold this charge against my brother. We can be reconciled if he repents, but I can put this aside and love him until we are reconciled. In all offences, this is the standard!

harizomai – I have already cast this up before the Lord. Now my brother is repentant. We can be fully reconciled. The forgiveness is now unconditional.

Our Confusion

Offence



Forgiveness

The Scriptural Process

Offence

aphiemi

Repentance

charizoma

aphiemi - Examples

Father **forgive** them for they know not what they do.”

Forgive us our debts, as we **forgive** our debtors”

For if ye **forgive** men their trespasses, they will also **forgive** you”

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I **forgive** him? till seven times?”

aphiemi

And **forgive** us our sins; for we also
forgive every one that is indebted to
us. And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.”

Luke 11:4

For if ye **forgive** men their
trespasses, your heavenly Father
will also **forgive** you: But if ye
forgive not men their trespasses,
neither will your Father **forgive** your
trespasses.”

Matthew 6:14-15



David's Understanding of Principle

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! **Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.** For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.”

Psalm 37:5-9

charizomai

The Repentant Incestuous Man

ufficient to such a man *is* this punishment, which *was inflicted* on many. So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to **forgive** him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with much sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm our love toward him. For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. To whom ye **forgive** any thing, I **forgive** also: for if I **forgave** any thing, to whom I **forgave** it, for your sakes **forgave** I it in the person of Christ...”

2 Corinthians 2:6-10

When Sin “Put Away”

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted (*euagchinos* - well compassioned, that is, sympathetic and beautiful) **forgiving** one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath **forgiven** you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32

bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking.” These are **NO** sins unto death, though offences and sins to be repented of. The call is to unconditionally forgive.

Ready To Forgive

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, lowly, meekness, kindness, humbleness of mind, forbearing one another, and **giving** one another, if any man have a quarrel against you: even as Christ **forgave** you, so also *do* ye. And above these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

Colossians 3:12-14

Debt Forgiven

There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly **forgave** them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he **forgave** most. And he said unto him, Thou has rightly judged.”

Luke 7:41-43

Putting Principle into Practice

A family member is a long-time substance user

He is taken into your home and given yet another chance – with clear understanding that there is zero tolerance for further substance abuse

He fails again, including theft, deception and multiple lies to your family

You live up to the understanding and he leaves your home and enters a rehabilitation facility

Process Applied

Now sober at a rehabilitation center, you go visit with him

He asks, “**Do you forgive me?**”

Questions:

How have you forgiven? (**aphiemi**). Are you able to turn this over to the Lord?

Are you reconciled? (**charizomai**)

e Process Applied

Offence

aphiemi

Repentance

charizomai

charizomai (forgive unconditionally), you should first *aphiemi*
it to the Lord)

Conclusions

Human reconciliation requires two to be accomplished

But, reconciliation is not always possible

“**aphiemi**” forgiveness only requires you!

“**charizomai**” forgiveness requires both to be reconciled

Myths Of Forgiveness”, Lloyd/Hill

If they do not repent, I should not forgive

They need to show change before I should forgive

Forgiveness means rebuilding the relationship

Forgiving someone means allowing them to hurt you over and over

Forgiveness requires release from consequences

Forgiveness is ignoring sin

The result of forgiveness is we can now trust the offender

Consequences For Offences?

too much to expect that the incident will be completely forgotten..... Depending on the nature of the offence, the brother or sister's activities in the ecclesia may need to be curtailed. If a brother or sister is involved in an offence related to inappropriate behaviour with children or young people, he cannot expect to be involved in the future with the Sunday School or Youth Group. The scriptures teach us that sins always have consequences. Sins can be forgiven by God...but we may not escape the consequences that some sins can set in train.”

The Challenge of Corinthians, M. Ashton, 2006, pg. 58

The Alternative

Offence

STUCK

Repentance

charizomai

Forgiveness Requires Forgiveness

And when ye stand praying, forgive (aphiemi), if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive (aphiemi) you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

Mark 11:25-26

Summary Points

Sins not unto death – attempt to resolve, correct, rebuke. But, even if no resolution, *aphiemi* forgive. Move on!

Sins unto death – attempt to resolve, correct, rebuke (Matt. 18). If not successful, ecclesial discipline may be required. But *aphiemi* is still required. But, you cannot be reconciled and *charizomai* until repentance. Eternal life is at stake!

Scriptural Discipline

ences against us and against Christ are not swept under the rug or harbored inside us

ring times of offence, we are called on to put our faith in action and demonstrate the spirit of Christ to the offending brother – anger and resentment cannot be what guides us!

e Lord offers to take the burden on himself and off our backs

The Reason We Can Cast it Up

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and
learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye
shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy,
and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

Contemplating Divine Forgiveness

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.”

Psalm 103:8-13

Next Class

Mutual Responsibility