

# **FORGIVENESS & FORGIVING**

**WHAT ABOUT UNBELIEVERS?**

- We forgive because ... (Ephesians 4:32)

Forgiveness is for the benefit of the

\_\_\_\_\_!

In a nutshell, forgiveness is a

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Forgiveness is modeled after ...


**REVIEW**

- This promise means that the sin that is forgiven...
  1. Will not be brought up again to the sinner or to others in the future
  2. Will not be exhumed to “pile on” or “beat up” the sinner. It is buried.
  3. Will never be used against the sinner again.

**FORGIVENESS IS A PROMISE!**

- When someone sins against us, breaking fellowship with us, we go to \_\_\_\_\_.
- When we go, we may need to \_\_\_\_\_ them about their sin.
- When a brother repents, we have a \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive that person.
- Refusal to forgive a repentant brother is choosing \_\_\_\_\_!

**REVIEW**



**WHAT IF THE SINNER  
IS NOT A  
“BROTHER?”**

Psalm 51:4

Genesis 39:9

Luke 15:17-21

Believers understand that sin is first and foremost against \_\_\_\_\_.

**INHERENT PROBLEMS  
WITH UNBELIEVERS**

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Unbelievers cannot be expected to  
\_\_\_\_\_ the things of God.

Romans 8:5-8

Unbelievers cannot \_\_\_\_\_ God  
and in fact are \_\_\_\_\_ to God!

**INHERENT PROBLEMS  
WITH UNBELIEVERS**

## *In essence, unbelievers...*

1. Cannot repent (unless they become believers). 2 Corinthians 7:10
2. Have a skewed understanding of right and wrong. (Titus 1:15)
3. Are primarily concerned with worldly things. (Galatians 5:17)

# **INHERENT PROBLEMS WITH UNBELIEVERS**



# How does the world deal with sin?

1. By ignoring it.
2. By redefining it.
3. By finding justification for it.
4. Through the APOLOGY system!

**WORLDLY SYSTEM  
FOR DEALING WITH SIN**

## Biblical System

## Worldly System

### Confession

“I have sinned...

- a. Against God (and you).”
- b. In this way.”

### Apology

“I’m sorry...”

- a. Remorse?
- b. Justification?
- c. Admitting Wrong?

**COMPARING CHRIST’S SYSTEM  
WITH THE WORLD’S.**

Biblical System

Worldly System

Seeking

Apology

Forgiveness

What the offender is seeking is unclear.

“Will you forgive me?”

**COMPARING CHRIST'S SYSTEM  
WITH THE WORLD'S.**

## Biblical System

Making a  
Promise

“I forgive you.”

## Worldly System

“Accepting”  
An Apology

1. “That’s Ok.” – Is it?
2. “Don’t worry about it.” – Why not?

**COMPARING CHRIST’S SYSTEM  
WITH THE WORLD’S.**

## Biblical System

### Forgiven

The matter is dealt with, buried, and clears the way for reconciliation.

## Worldly System

### Apology Accepted

The matter is not dealt with, is still in the air, and leaves the way unclear.

**COMPARING CHRIST'S SYSTEM  
WITH THE WORLD'S.**

*Review the steps taken with the  
Goal of forgiveness & reconciliation*

1. Go to the person in private.
2. Take 1 or 2 witnesses.
3. Go to the church
4. Treat him like an unbeliever.

**MATTHEW 18  
WITH UNBELIEVERS**

## *Problems with Unbelievers*

1. Steps 3 & 4 are not applicable.
2. Steps 1 & 2 are admirable and helpful with the understanding that the unbeliever will not be able to completely understand or repent.
3. This process could spur a conversation that leads to evangelism.

# **MATTHEW 18 WITH UNBELIEVERS**

***Then what do we do?***



*Romans 12:18*

*If possible, be at \_\_\_\_\_.*

**FIRST PRINCIPLE  
WITH UNBELIEVERS**

*Ezekiel 18:23*

*2 Peter 3:9*

*We desire their \_\_\_\_\_.*

**SECOND PRINCIPLE  
WITH UNBELIEVERS**

# Calling a Spade a Spade

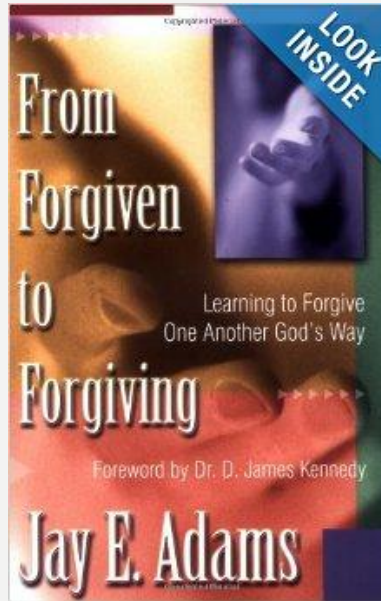
Start the process (Matthew 18)...

- a)** Call sin what it is and attempt to work it out.
- b)** Try bringing in a third party to resolve a situation when step one fails.
- c)** Avoid it if possible, but court is an option (unlike the situation between 2 believers – 1 Cor. 6:1-8)
  - \* “Court” here supplants “the church”

## STARTING THE PROCESS

# Proverbs 16:7

**TRUST IN GOD'S METHODS**



“You do not have as many resources in dealing with an unbeliever as you do in a relationship with a Christian, so you must not expect the same results. One thing you can always do is to please God in your relationship to the unbeliever by making sure that there is nothing left undone on your side of the relationship.”

What if I am the  
sinner?

**NEXT WEEK**