THE TREATMENT OF BRETHREN

Lesson Three

INTRODUCTION:

1. Brethren should forgive one another -- Eph. 4: 32; Col. 3:13; Luke 17: 3 - 4; Matt. 18: 21 -22; Matt. 6: 14 - 15

2. Forgiveness is an attitude of heart which restores the offender to the former state and affections of the offended one.

   (1) To forgive is to bury the matter and treat it as though it had not been committed.

   (2) A kind of delayed judgment which hold the offender on probation is not forgiveness.

   (3) That is only "burying the hatchet with the handle out", ready for use on a moment's notice.

   (4) Sham forgiveness will not suffice -- Matt. 18: 23 - 35

3. Some have said, "I have forgiven, but I have not forgotten".

   (1) This is not the way God forgives -- Heb. 10:17

   (2) We cannot forgive one, and then constantly remind him of the sin and hold it over him .

4. Jesus said that we are to forgive a brother if he repents -- Luke 17:3

   (1) If he does not repent we must have a tender feeling toward him -- Matt. 5: 44 - 48

   (2) Vengeance is not ours -- Rom. 12: 19 - 21

I. PETER'S QUESTION , "HOW OFT SHALL MY BROTHER SIN AGAINST ME, AND I FORGIVE HIM?" -- Matt. 18:21

   1. Christ gave the answer -- "*seventy times seven*" -- Matt. 18:22

   2. Don't dig it up again if you want God to forgive you -- Mark 11: 25 - 26

II. SOME BARRIERS TO FORGIVENESS

   1. Gossipers

      (1) "*A whisperer separateth chief friends*" -- Prov. 16:28

      (2) Prov. 6: 16 - 19; I Tim. 5:13

   2. Pride

      (1) On the part of the trespasser -- Hosea 7:10

      (2) On the part of the trespassed against.

III. OFFENSES ARE INEVITABLE -- THEY GROW OUT OF OUR WEAKNESSES

   1. Matt. 18: 7; Luke 17: 1 - 2

   2. Quick temper -- James 1: 19; Eph. 4:26

   3. Sensitiveness -- easy to take offense

4. Selfishness -- I Cor. 8: 9 - 13
5. Long tongues
6. Mote-hunting -- Matt. 7 : 1 -5
7. Lack of longsuffering -- Eph. 4: 2

IV. VARIOUS DUTIES

1. The trespasser
    (1) Duty to repent -- Luke 17:3
    (2) Ask forgiveness -- Matt. 5: 23 - 24
2. The trespassed against
    (1) Rebuke the trespasser -- Luke 17:3
        1. In the right way -- Gal. 6:1
    (2) Talk to him privately -- Matt. 18:15
    (3) If he won't hear you privately, take two or three witnesses -- Matt. 18: 16
    (4) If he won't hear them, tell it to the church -- Matt. 18:17
    (5) Prayerful while we rebuke -- Luke 17:3
    (6) We need to realize that under similar circumstances we might have fallen too, for we are all "made of clay" -- I Cor. 10:12
3. The man who is firm in his stand for the truth, and yet deals kindly and gently with his fallen brother, is a great asset to the church.

V. THE TREATMENT OF BRETHREN IN ERROR -- James 5: 19 - 20

1. There are many in error who are in need of our help.
2. Some are in error because of IGNORANCE , and can be recovered by teaching -- I Tim. 2: 24 - 26
3. There are others who are aware of their errors, and are of a more hardened nature.
    (1) These <u>cannot</u> be reached by gentle teaching -- they must be rebuked sharply -- Tit. 1: 9 - 13; Tit. 3:10; II Tim. 4:2; I Tim. 5:20

VI. THE IMPENITENT BROTHER

1. There is no place in the fellowship of the saints for the brother who cannot be brought to repentance.
2. Matt. 18: 15 - 17; I Cor. 5: 1 - 11; II Thess. 3:6; 3: 14 - 15
3. He is not to enjoy the social company of his brethren -- I Cor. 5: 11; II Thess. 3:14

VII. BRETHREN THAT BECOME FALSE TEACHERS

1. Rom. 16: 17 - 18; Acts 20: 29 - 32; Gal. 2: 1 - 5; II Pet. 2: 1 - 2; Tit. 1: 9 - 14; Col. 2: 4, 8, 18 - 23; II Tim. 4: 2 - 4

2. When brethren become false teachers they are more dangerous than the ones on the outside, and should be dealt with accordingly.
3. The more a man appears to be interested in people, the more he can deceive.
4. Christ tells about them -- Matt. 7:15
5. Paul -- II Cor. 11: 14 - 15
6. We are commanded to withdraw from false teachers -- I Tim. 6: 3 - 5; II John 9 - 11; Tit. 3:10; Eph. 5:11

VIII. THE INDOLENT BROTHER -- II Thess. 3:10

1. This class of people should never be confused with the <u>needy</u> who are to be helped.
2. When we support those who are <u>too lazy to work</u>, we sin against them.
3. I Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4: 28

IX. THE POOR BROTHER -- James 2: 1 - 10

1. The poor are not to be despised by the servant of the Lord.
2. I John 3:17; Matt. 25: 33 - 40

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