



## BCF LESSON 12 INTERPERSONAL PROBLEMS (part one)

LEARNING TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

5/98 greg blanc

### THIS WEEKS MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:23-24 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

This may be the most difficult BCF lesson in this course!! **NO** \_\_\_\_\_, **NO** \_\_\_\_\_. It may be painful, because this principle is in opposition to our carnal nature.

The primary purposes of this lesson are:

- To present \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness of you as an example of how you are to forgive others.
- To present the necessary steps to biblical reconciliation.
- To examine common \_\_\_\_\_ about biblical forgiveness.

This will be an extremely thought provoking and challenging lesson for you because the Great Physician wants to do some major heart surgery in all of us concerning this matter of forgiveness. You will be exhorted by the \_\_\_\_\_ to have an entirely new perspective on what you consider your right to not forgive.

What does the Bible have to say about our \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness?  
Let's look at this weeks memory verse.....

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV) (Jesus said)<sup>23</sup> Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them, then come and offer your gift.

**God sees that the first step of physically murdering someone is to think it in you** \_\_\_\_\_.

In this weeks memory verse, Jesus is saying, "how can you stand in the sanctuary on Sunday morning with your friendliest Christian face on, Bible on you lap, lifting up your hands in surrender to God's will in your life, but you are harboring unforgiveness or bitterness or anger or envy against another? You hypocrite!!" (Matthew 7:5) He says, "worship Me with clean hands, not hands stained with unforgiveness."

Mark 11:25 (NIV) And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that you Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. (Any loopholes?)

**"Reconcile"** – Greek Word: diallasso – "to effect or to make an alteration", the desired outcome is that cases of mutual hostility would yield to mutual concession. It also means to restore to friendship or \_\_\_\_\_, to settle or resolve. Often prompted by a change on the part of one party, induced by the action on the part of another. A change from enmity to friendship. It is mutual, i.e.: it is a change wrought in both parties who have been at enmity. (Ephesians 4:3)

God's ultimate example of reconciliation is found in Romans 5:8 (NIV)  
But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Since reconciliation is a \_\_\_\_\_ of our Heavenly Father, shouldn't we choose to exercise that same characteristic whenever possible???

The practice of unconditional love is the distinctive trait of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Jesus said in: John 13:34-35 (NIV) <sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Remembering that God has forgiven us, when we know we don't deserve it, will help us in our forgiveness of others when we feel they don't deserve it.

Let's look at some possible examples of temptations that could lead to unforgiveness:

1. Someone has taken \_\_\_\_\_ of you or manipulated you.
2. Someone has borrowed money from you and not paid you back.
3. Maybe someone has lied about or \_\_\_\_\_ about you, or a friend has talked behind your back - - - or possibly even in front of you back.
4. Maybe you've had a roommate from hell.
5. Maybe you've been the victim of an adulterous affair, or someone moved in on your relationship, or you were dumped by someone for no apparent reason.
6. Maybe you had a rough \_\_\_\_\_ when you were growing up. Maybe you felt like your family didn't or doesn't love you as much as you would have liked.

**In order to fulfill God's design for our lives, everything we do must fall into one of these two categories: A) Love \_\_\_\_\_ B) Love our \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 22:36-40 (NKJV) <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> "This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> "And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " <sup>40</sup> "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

1 John 4:20-21 (NKJV) <sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

<sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

One way to show Jesus that you love Him is your \_\_\_\_\_ to show biblical forgiveness. Paul speaking of the character of the new man in: Colossians 3:12-13 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

Bearing with one another is part of the picking up your cross on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NKJV) <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. God specifically tells us to exercise forgiveness!**

Our \_\_\_\_\_ is to forgive whether forgiveness is sought or even if it's not!  
And we are to seek forgiveness when we have offended someone. Forgiveness is not a \_\_\_\_\_ or an emotion. It's an action of obedience, just like biblical love.

Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

Proverbs 10:12 (NKJV)

He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

Proverbs 17:9 (NKJV)

Let all *that* you *do* be done with love.

1 Corinthians 16:14( NKJV)

## Homework

### Lesson 12

## Love Your Neighbor I

1. **Memory Verse:** Matthew 5:23-24
2. For the above verses, **ANSWER** the following questions:
  - What is reconciliation?
  - What does Matthew 5:23-24 teach about reconciliation?
3. **Read Lesson 12**
4. **LIST** at least **5** ways our forgiveness of others is to be modeled after God's forgiveness.
5. Have you ever had a difficult time forgiving someone? If so, explain. Which scriptures help you deal with that situation?
6. After reading Lesson 12, answer the following with Scripture:
  - Is it possible or necessary for you to forgive yourself?
  - Will all the consequences of your sins be removed when you experience forgiveness?
  - Explain Matthew 6:14-15. What is the relationship between your granting forgiveness to others & God forgiving you?
  - Does it matter if you do not feel forgiven?