

Sermon Discussion Questions for May 19, 2019

Scripture Passages: Ephesians 4:31-32

Gary Heim on Forgiveness

1. What key point stood out to you in the message?
2. What metaphor did Gary use for our sin debt? (National Debt). Is our sin debt as seemingly insurmountable as the National Debt? How and thru whom is our sin forgiven? See Romans 3:25. This provides framework for High Cost paid for our sin debt.
3. What was the first stage of the forgiveness process? (Hurt). What are sources of hurt in your past? Have you forgiven the offender? Answer the question: I need to forgive _____ for _____.
4. What was the second stage of forgiveness process? (Hate). What were two types of unrighteous anger/hate Gary talked about? (Aggressive and Passive). If someone angry, usually a secondary emotion. What types of primary issues cause secondary emotion of anger? Think about "Green" and "Red" button illustration. Are you dealing with unforgiveness or bitterness? See Matthew 6:14-15 and Ephesians 4:26-27.
5. Gary quoted Thomas A' Kempis' question: "What is it like to live with me?" How does this help keep us from judging others so harshly? Do you take the time to know a person's story? What might be causing them to behave the way they behave? Can this help lead to the healing power of the gospel?
6. Third stage of forgiveness includes Healing by forgiving - What are three modes of forgiveness according to Gary? (No forgiveness, Incomplete forgiveness, and Complete forgiveness). In complete forgiveness, the right mode, bitterness is replaced by what? (sadness). Then – forgive, serve, chosen acts of kindness. Genuine forgiveness comes because of whom?
7. Last stage of forgiveness is what? (Harmony). A step beyond forgiveness is what? (Reconciliation). Finally, what did Gary say that Forgiveness is NOT: (1) Excusing (2) Forgetting (3) Tolerating. Goal is repentance and restoration.

- Remember to pray for each other's unique challenges and commit to pray throughout the week for one another.
- Love others as Christ loves you.
- Fill your mind and heart with the gospel of Christ Jesus.
- Live out the gospel of Christ which calls for radical Love for God and Love for others.