

The Relational Disciple



Forgiving One Another

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Unless we forgive, He won't forgive us.

Read: Jesus said "forgive them Father for they do not know what they are doing". This came straight after Him being nailed to the cross. What a powerful heart position of love. To be able to offer forgiveness to those who detest and hate you and want you dead. This forgiveness goes out to all of mankind because all of mankind is born in iniquity and sin and in need of being forgiven for this fallen and corrupt nature.

Yes this includes us. How can one receive forgiveness for their fallen state and yet not forgive others for their fallen state. Possibly because one doesn't realise just how much He has forgiven them of their corrupt human nature. It was Jesus who said, "for he who is forgiven little loves little, but for those who have been forgiven much, they love much."

Forgiveness is a powerful releasing agent that allows both the person who is forgiven and the one being forgiven, to experience the fullness of the Life Jesus came to bring us into. Maybe this is why Jesus said to Peter we are to forgive our brother seventy times seven when he sins against us, rather than the answer people came up with of seven.

This ability to forgive comes from knowing the love of the Father and having this love operating within you. It's the Father love alone that enables this forgiveness, especially when the offence is great.

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Questions:

1. Why is forgiveness such a powerful releasing agent?
2. How well do you know what you have been forgiven from?
3. How well do you know what you have been forgiven for?
4. To not forgive others means He won't forgive us. How does this influence your relationship with Christ?
5. If we are being honest, how capable are we today to forgive people when they hurt or offend us?
6. What do we need more of to be able to offer this forgiveness?

Pray and encourage one another to press in to all God has for us.