

FORGIVENESS

∴ the key to relationship ∴

Part 1: The Key To Reconciliation

Part 2: The Key To Community

Part 3: The Key To Freedom

Part 4: The Key To Life

INTRODUCTION – Overcoming Me-ism

Resisting our CULTure of personal satisfaction...

Galatians 5:13-15

Bathing In Forgiveness

A THEOLOGICAL PUZZLE...

- a. When we receive God's forgiveness, we are forgiven for ___ our sin. (**Romans 8:1; Titus 3:5; 1 John 2:12**)
- b. Jesus instructs his disciples to pray _____ for forgiveness. (**Matthew 6:11-12**)
- c. Therefore, is ongoing cleansing from sin necessary for salvation? If not, why are we instructed to pray for what is already granted to us?

John 13:1-15; 1 John 1:5-9

2 Corinthians 7:1

TWO KINDS OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS...

JUDICIAL FORGIVENESS

Romans 8:1; 1 John 2:12

PARENTAL FORGIVENESS

1 John 1:8-9

Confession Is Good For The Soul

Psalm 32:3-5

- Confessing to God (**1 John 1:8-9**)
- Confessing to others (**James 5:16; Matt. 5:23-24; Galatians 6:2**)

CONFESSION =

CONCLUSION – Birth, Bathing, & Baptism

Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Explore and discuss this quote from German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer: *Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK (PICK JUST ONE IF TIME IS TIGHT)...

3. Some people believe that difficulty, challenges, hardships in life are the sign that God is against them. See what **Hebrews 12:1-11** has to say about this perspective. a) What verse from this passage stands out as the most significant to you? Why? b) In light of **verse 2**, how is the life of Jesus an example to us regarding this issue of forgiveness? (Brainstorm as many examples as you can from his life and teaching.) c) Some Christians seem to believe that the more righteous and godly you are the 'easier' and/or more apparently prosperous your life will be. What verses in this passage challenge that idea? How so?
4. John the Baptist is said to have offered a baptism for the forgiveness of sins (**Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3**) and Jesus offered people forgiveness right on the spot during his ministry (**Matthew 9:2 / Mark 2:5 / Luke 5:20**). How could John and Jesus offer forgiveness before the cross? What about Old Testament passages that speak of God forgiving sins? Does this mean the execution of Jesus was unnecessary to bring about the forgiveness of the world (**Matthew 26:28**)? Why was it necessary for Jesus to die if forgiveness could already be offered before hand? Find pointers toward an answer in **Romans 3:21-26**.

SO WHAT?...

5. Read **James 5:16 & Galatians 6:2**. What opportunities do you have to regularly practice the disciplines of confession and burden sharing? How might this Home Church grow in helping its members play these roles for each other? Would that be desirable for you? Why / Why not?

LOOKING AHEAD...

- Who are you inviting to our new series "The Irreligious Christ" starting this Sunday?

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 19 / 26, 2003