

Order of Worship Mattayom

26 August 2011

“Forgiving One Another”

By *Rev. Paul Smith*

Lay pastor of Wattana Church

Ephesians 4 v 32:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as God,
in Christ, forgave you.”

Forgiving our family members, classmates, friends, and other people is one of the most important activities of our lives. I hope that you will learn to forgive people sincerely even though you are still young.

Q: Why is it very important that we forgive everyone?

I will give 4 answers to this question, so listen carefully.

Answer 1: Forgiving others is very important because the Lord Jesus taught us to forgive.

Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples asked Jesus – “ How often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Is 7 times enough?”

And Jesus replied, “No, not 7 times, but 70 times 7.” How many times is that? Yes, 490 times! Wow! That’s a lot of times. What did the Lord Jesus really mean? Don’t even count: just forgive and forgive.

So, because the Lord Jesus has taught us to forgive, we should obey. He created us, and He knows that if we sincerely forgive people, this is good for our health.

It's good for our physical health, mental health, and also our emotional health and happiness. When we do what God has told us to do, God is pleased with us, and this makes us feel good and happy.

Maybe my 2nd answer will help you to understand.

Answer 2: Forgiving is important because, if we don't, we will build a little cage or prison around ourselves, and this will make us unhappy.

Do you want to be happy or unhappy? Happy people are usually healthy people. People who forgive from their heart are also free, and this makes them happy: they have a real smile on their faces. Why? Because they are not living in a little self-made prison. People who are free are relaxed, and because they are relaxed, they are happy and healthy. People who think: "I can't forgive," or "I won't forgive," usually have sad faces because they are unhappy. If you want to be happy and healthy, then forgive people.

Answer 3: Are you listening carefully, because this is a very serious answer. If we don't forgive people, God won't forgive us.

The Lord Jesus gave us a sample prayer, and in that prayer He taught us about forgiveness. Then, after the prayer, the Lord Jesus said, "If you forgive people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you: but if you do not forgive people their sins, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6 vs 4-13)

If we have said or done something to someone that is not kind or good, we should tell them that we are really sorry as soon as we can. And if someone says sorry to us, we should say to them, "I forgive you," immediately.

Answer 4: If we do not forgive, we build a barrier between ourselves and other people.

This means we separate ourselves from people, and if we do this often, we may not have any friends. We will become lonely and sad, and maybe angry. Do you want to be lonely and sad? If not, then learn to forgive from your heart, even if you think it is very difficult sometimes.

People who are not willing to forgive show that they are proud, and often that they are jealous. And proud, jealous people are not happy, but deep in their hearts they are lonely and sad. Forgiving people brings us close together, and helps us to feel happy, relaxed and free in our hearts.

Answer 5: This answer is very important, because God, in Jesus, has forgiven us

The Bible tells us that, because of our sins, we will die spiritually. This means that, in the future, we will be separated from God for ever in hell. But God does not want anyone to be separated from Him for ever, because He loves us so much. So He sent the Lord Jesus into this world to receive our punishment for our sins. The Lord Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice to God for all people. Now, God will forgive us if we ask Him sincerely.

When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, God placed all our sins on Him, and He took all our sin away. Now, when we come to God in prayer and tell Him that we are really sorry for our sins, and ask Him to forgive us in Jesus' Name, He will. Then when we trust in the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour, we will know in our heart that God has really forgiven us of all our sins.

Now I would like to hear you all say something in English. Let's say all together the 5 answers to the question:

-Why is it very important that we forgive everyone? Are you ready?

No 1: The Lord Jesus taught us to forgive, so we should obey.

No 2: If I don't forgive, I will build a prison around myself.

No 3: If I don't forgive, God won't forgive me.

No 4: If I don't forgive, I will become lonely and sad.

No 5: Because God, in Jesus, has forgiven me.

If you have never said sorry to God for your sins before, and this morning you want God to forgive you, then pray this short prayer with me. Are you ready? Let's pray.

If you prayed this prayer and really meant it, God has forgiven you. Tell one of the Christian teachers today, so that the teacher can help you.

May God bless you.