09/30/2012 SUNDAY SCHOOL PHILEMON 4-7



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## THE DNA OF A FORGIVING PERSON

AS WE DISCOVERED LAST WEEK, FORGIVENESS IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT. IN FACT, IT HAS BEEN SAID, "YOU ARE NEVER MORE LIKE GOD THAN WHEN YOU FORGIVE." LAST WEEK, AS WE MET THE CHARACTERS AND UNDERSTOOD THE PLOT OF PHILEMON, WE REALIZED THAT FORGIVENESS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE GOD PRACTICES AND TEACHES IT, AND IF WE DON'T FORGIVE, GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE US.

NOW THAT WE KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE DNA OF A FORGIVING PERSON.

- BECAUSE YOU MUST FORGIVE OTHERS, YOU MUST EXERCISE FAITH AND LOVE (V. 5).
  - A. YOU MUST SHOW LOVE FOR OTHERS.
    - 1. YOUR LOVE MUST BE A WAY OF LIFE.
    - 2. YOUR LOVE MUST BE UNIVERSAL.
  - B. YOU MUST HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST.
- BECAUSE YOU MUST FORGIVE OTHERS, YOU MUST BE SPIRITUALLY MATURE (V. 6).
  - A. SPIRITAUL MATURITY FORMS THE BACKGROUND FOR FORGIVENESS.
  - B. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS FOR THE GLORY OF CHRIST.
- BECAUSE YOU MUST FORGIVE OTHERS, YOU 111. MUST ENCOURAGE OTHERS (V.7).
  - A. ENCOURAGEMENT INVOLVES LOVING OTHERS.
  - B. ENCOURAGEMENT INVOLVES MINISTERING TO HEARTS.

FORGIVING.

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YOU ARE NEVER MORE LIKE GOD THAN WHEN YOU ARE YOU ARE NEVER MORE LIKE GOD THAN WHEN YOU ARE FORGIVING.