

THE INGREDIENTS OF TRUE FORGIVENESS

OF ALL OF THE VIRTUES THAT WE DEVELOP IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES, NONE MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE VIRTUE OF FORGIVENESS. SINCE OUR GOD IS A FORGIVING GOD, WE MUST PRACTICE FORGIVENESS TOWARDS THOSE WHO OFFEND US. SO FAR IN OUR SERIES, WE HAVE DISCOVERED THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS, AND THE DNA OF A FORGIVING PERSON. AS WE MOVE INTO PART THREE OF OUR STUDY ON THE SMALL BOOK OF PHILEMON TODAY, WE WILL DISCOVER THE INGREDIENTS OF TRUE FORGIVENESS, KEEPING IN MIND THAT "YOU ARE NEVER MORE LIKE GOD THEN WHEN YOU FORGIVE."

- I. BECAUSE YOU MUST FORGIVE, YOU MUST ACCEPT THE OFFENDER BACK (V. 10-11).
 - A. ONESIMUS HAD REPENTED.
 - B. ONESIMUS HAD PROVEN HIMSELF USEFUL.
- II. BECAUSE YOU MUST FORGIVE, YOU MUST RESTORE THE OFFENDER.
 - A. RESTORATION IS BASED ON A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE.
 - B. RESTORATION INVOLVES COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE.
- III. BECAUSE YOU MUST FORGIVE, YOU MUST MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
 - A. YOU MUST REPAIR THE RELATIONSHIP.
 - B. YOU MUST REPAIR THE PROBLEMS.

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

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