

Sunday School Class Handout

Marriage Matters by Winston T. Smith

Peace Presbyterian Church

Chapter 12

Foundations of Forgiveness

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“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.” (Matt 27:50-52)

Major Points of This Chapter:

1. Forgiveness is supernatural and rooted in God’s forgiveness of us through Christ.
2. God’s forgiveness reflects several decisions that we need to make to forgive our spouses.
3. Learning how to take responsibility for our sins against our spouse and confess them is important.

I. What It Means to Forgive

A. Forgiveness is incredibly _____

B. Definition

C. A Curtain is Torn and its significance

II. Learning to Forgive as God Does

A. Embracing what Jesus has done for us and extending that in thought, word, and deed to others is the essence of forgiveness.

B. In forgiving one another, we draw on the forgiveness that Jesus has given us **BY MAKING A DECISION TO RELEASE ANOTHER FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN.**

C. In short, forgiveness is _____ the other from the penalty of sin so the relationship can be restored.

D. Four Basic Decisions of Forgiveness

1. A Decision to Release
2. A Decision to _____
3. A Decision to Trust That God is Up to _____
4. A Decision to Grow

III. Confessing Sin and Asking for Forgiveness

- A. What to Keep in Mind When Confessing Sin
- B. Principles that can assist you in avoiding the most common mistakes of confessions:
 1. Being restored to God
 2. Not about “getting something off your chest”
 3. Do not Blame Shift (Avoid: “if, but, & maybe”)
 4. Be Specific
 5. Express Genuine _____
 6. Plan to Be Different
 7. Ask For Forgiveness

IV. Conflict is Ordinary; Forgiveness is Extraordinary

- A. In forgiveness, we extend to others what God has done for us.
- B. God is the author of forgiveness, and we must learn it from Him.
- C. The key to lasting change in marriage is learning to see the _____ moments of life as extraordinary _____ to embody the love of God.

D. A willingness to admit and forgive sin is the GOOD NEWS of God’s forgiveness of sin being proclaimed through your marriage.