

Sunday School Class Handout #2

Marriage Matters by Winston T. Smith

“Foundations of Forgiveness”

February 20, 2022

A. What do you know about forgiveness?

Write T (true), F (false), or ? (I don't know) next to each statement:

1. Not everyone deserves to be forgiven.
2. There is a limit to what can be forgiven.
3. Forgiveness requires the other person to ask for forgiveness.
4. We should always forgive because God in Christ has forgiven us.
5. Forgiving someone removes all consequences.
6. Forgiving someone means letting go of your right to punish him.
7. Forgiveness does not always look the same for each person.
8. The purpose of forgiveness is to restore a relationship.
9. Forgiveness restores a relationship to where it once was.
10. Forgiveness has to flow from your emotions.
11. To truly forgive is to forget what happened.
12. Having to forgive someone is an unfortunate necessity.

B. Read the following story and determine what Jonathan will need to do to forgive his wife:

After the church service, Jonathan was talking to Robert about the upcoming holiday. The conversation was light and amusing until Robert said, "I guess it may feel a little awkward if you're back at your in-laws this year."

"What do you mean?" asked Jonathan.

"Oh, well my wife mentioned how you said some things that maybe you wish you hadn't last time you were there."

Jonathan felt like he had just been betrayed and sentenced all at the same time. How could his wife have talked to Robert's wife about that, especially since he had very clearly expressed his embarrassment and asked her to not talk about it with anyone. Jonathan felt hurt and angry.

1. How might Jonathan feel tempted to punish his wife?
2. What will it look like to release her from any penalty?
3. What might he need to sacrifice to be able to release her?
4. How can he set his mind to trust God and allow for growth?