

## MESSAGE NOTES

### Unity

### FORGIVENESS

Pastor Brian Miller

**MATTHEW 18** <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup> "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup> "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. <sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' <sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

#### ***We must forgive each other because...***

1. The church must reflect **CHRIST'S EXAMPLE**.

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."  
Ephesians 4:32*

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."  
1 John 1:9 ESV*

*"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34 KJV*

2. It protects against **BITTERNESS**.

*"If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." 1 John 4:20 ESV*

*"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7 NKJV*

3. It preserves the **UNITY** of the church.

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”*

*Colossians 3:13-14*

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

4. We want to maintain **FELLOWSHIP** with God.

*“Forgive us for our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.” Matthew 6:12 NCV*

*“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14-15*

*\*All scripture in NIV unless specified*

**ACTION STEP:**

Reconcile with whomever you need to. Forgive them and ask for forgiveness.