



SIMPLIFY Forgiveness

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Simplify: To regain God's order and peace in our lives.

B. The Problem With Un-forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness: To _____, to _____.
2. Un-forgiveness: To _____, to _____, to _____, resulting in anger, bitterness, and opening one's life to the destructive forces of sin and the enemy.
3. Therefore, to simplify our lives, we need to learn how to walk in forgiveness, both within _____ and toward _____.

II. The Roadmap Of Walking In Forgiveness: Matthew 18

A. **The Context of the Chapter: "Who is the greatest?"**

1. Matthew 18:1-5: _____ is the key to all "Kingdom Living".
2. I John 1:8-9: This is vital in the area of forgiveness.

B. **The Warning Against "Offenses": Matthew 18:6-9**

1. "skandalizo" – to put a _____ in the way, to offend, to entice to sin.
2. Un-forgiveness creates a "skandalizo" – both in the person harboring un-forgiveness, and also for those infected by the un-forgiveness.
3. We must _____ any stumbling blocks in our life.

C. **The Call to Forgiveness and Restoration: Matthew 18:10-14**

1. The heart of the Father is always to _____, to _____: Verse 11
2. We need to guard our hearts from the tendency to "_____ - _____", rather than restore: Luke 9:53-56

3. A heart of un-forgiveness focuses on **my** "_____" **my** "_____", **my** "_____" – and robs us of the "joy of restoration".

D. The Steps Toward Forgiveness: Matthew 18:15-20

1. **Step One**: Keep it "____ to ____": Verse 15; Proverbs 16:27-28
 - a. If someone comes to share an "offense" they have with another, _____ - but direct them to the person they have the "offense" with.
 - b. **Step One** is not always successful, but it must be _____!
2. **Step Two**: One or two more... Verse 16
 - a. Only if **Step One** has not produced restoration.
 - b. **The goal**: Not to form an circle of supporters, but to enlist 1-2 Godly people who can 1) Act as objective _____; 2) Identify _____; 3) Help facilitate _____.
3. **Step Three**: Tell it to the church... Verse 17
 - a. Reserved for established church _____.
 - b. **Goal**: To enlist the prayer and concern of the entire church body in the goal of restoration.
 - c. **Church Discipline** is used as the last resort.
4. **Step Four**: The Prayer of Agreement – Verses 18-20
 - a. **Context**: Repentance and forgiveness.
 - b. The Church has authority to _____ and to _____ sins: John 20:21-23; I Corinthians 5:5

E. **The Ultimate Goal**: True _____ and Full _____:

1. Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 7:47-48
2. **Warning**: Verses 34-35; Hebrews 12:15; II Corinthians 2:3-11

F. **Finally** – We do not only need to forgive others... we also need to _____: Romans 8:1-2



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