



## Part 6

### The Lie: Some Things Just Can't Be Forgiven

Pastor Grant Fishbook

November 7 & 8, 2009

## The Lie

Some things just can't be forgiven.

### The Accusation

Your sin is in a different category.

God couldn't possibly forgive you, because you...

### God loves to forgive

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." – *Matthew 9:11-13*

### There is only one unpardonable sin

Matthew 12:22-32; Mark 3:22-30; John 3:18; John 3:36

### The love of God overwhelms our past sin

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – *Romans 8:38-39*

## The Truth about God's Forgiveness

God forgives freely, lovingly and completely.

### Where Do I Start in Forgiving Others?

- I must accept that as a follower of Jesus, forgiveness is not an option – it's a requirement

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. – *Matthew 6:12-15*

- Forgiveness starts with looking at how much God forgave you

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. – *Colossians 3:13*

(Continues on back)

**Forgiveness *is not*:**

- Forgetting
- Diminishing
- Overlooking
- Denying
- Condoning
- Momentary

**Forgiveness *is*:**

- Releasing a person from our judgment
- Choosing not to punish
- Refusing to harbor an offense
- Setting free the offender and ourselves
- Ongoing

**Our Common Struggle: Forgiving ourselves**

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. — *1 Timothy 1:15-16*

**Next Steps****• Grief and Loss Workshop**

Saturday, November 14; 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Details in today's program

**• Getting a Grip on the Holidays**

Starting Monday, November 16 or Wednesday, December 2;

Details in today's program

**Small Group  
Discussion  
Questions**

- 1) In a moment of pure unfiltered honesty, answer the following question: How has your week been?
- 2) When was the last time you had to forgive someone? Without naming names, how did the process work for you?
- 3) You've probably heard the saying, "Forgive and forget." How can you know if you have truly forgiven someone?
- 4) What are some of the consequences you have observed when people refuse to forgive?
- 5) How can we pray for you tonight?