



Forgiveness Brings Restoration. (Part 2)

(October 5, 2009)

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Unforgiveness is a fellowship breaker. But why should we forgive if we are right? ***We must in order to restore fellowship, and in order to be forgiven (Mark 11:26).*** One can be technically right and yet spiritually wrong.

Marriage is a good illustration. It is a partnership. It is to share each others' burdens and help each other. It is an equal exchange and communion through which both parties benefit. It is fellowship based on a relationship of love and the Word of God!

Fellowship is the one thing that makes married life beautiful. The law that binds a man and a woman together does not create fellowship. It is when the man and the woman are blended together as one, spiritually, mentally, and physically.

It is the love that they have one for another, and this is nurtured through communion, which creates fellowship.

Fellowship between a husband and wife can easily be broken. The marriage might not be broken. It takes the court to do that.

This broken fellowship many times comes through misunderstandings and hurt feelings, followed by unforgiveness.

It might not break the relationship, but ruins it and robs that relationship of its richest blessings and benefits.

A low grade of faith comes from a low grade of fellowship. Many Christians have lost their fellowship and put duty in its place.

The Holy Spirit has given us the way to restore broken fellowship through forgiveness.

"Forgive us our debt as we forgive our debtors," we read in the Lord's Prayer. Jesus also said in Mark 11:25: "when you stand praying, forgive."

Peter knowing about the importance of forgiving but still with a legalistic mindset, asked Jesus ***how many times*** he had to forgive, if a brother had sinned against him (Matt. 18:21).

Did you know that we can sin not only against God, but also against people? Many people do not know this, but it is still in the Word of God.

Peter and many people with him probably think that it is more than enough to forgive someone seven times. But Jesus, the Lord of love and mercy, responded, ***not seven times, but seventy times seven. (Matt.18:22)***

May the Lord help us all to forgive those that sinned against us, so that we can live in real freedom from guilt and condemnation, enjoying the full benefits of our salvation.

-Roger Wågsjö