

**Forgiven to Forgive**  
**Col 3:12-15; Mt 18:21-22**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the necessity and love found in forgiveness.

- Intro:
1. There are many things in life that build walls between people.
  2. Few things build them as fast as the unwillingness to forgive and being unloving.
  3. You cannot be loving and unforgiving at the same time.

I. The Debt We Could Not Pay (**Mt 18:24**)

A. The Talent

1. **The Jewish talent was about \$1600**
2. **A debt of about \$16 million would be impossible to pay.**

B. Our sins are like an unpayable debt

1. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (**Rom 3:23**)
2. We see in the death of Christ the seriousness of sin (**2 Cor 5:21**)

II. The Debt We Can Forgive (**Mt 18:28**)

A. A brother sinning against brother

1. What was the teaching of Jesus? (**Mt 18:15**)
2. Peter's question reveals possibility (**Mt 18:21**)

B. Joseph forgave his brothers (**Genesis 50:17-21**)

C. The lesson from this:

1. Husbands and wives must forgive.
2. Parents and children must forgive.
3. People in the Christian community must forgive.

D. Forgive as you have been forgiven (**Eph 4:32, Mt 6:32**)

III. Conditions of Forgiveness

A. Does God forgive impenitent and disobedient people? (**Rom 2:5**)

1. Alien sinners must meet God's conditions (**Acts 2:37-38**)
2. Sinful Christians must confess to be forgiven (**1 Jn 1:9**)

B. In relationships with brethren:

1. Recognition of Wrong (**Mt 18:15**)
2. Repentance (**Lk 17:3**)
3. Request of forgiveness

IV. Lessons for us today.

A. Forgiveness heals

1. **Forgiveness can heal broken homes.**
2. **Forgiveness binds things that are close to breaking and when coupled with love it can mend what has been broken.**
3. **God shows us His love by forgiving us, we ought to forgive also (1 Jn 1:9)**

B. God can stop the hurt caused by sin

1. If we obey God we can find peace that comes from His forgiveness (**Col 1:13-14**)
2. Peace comes with repentance and forgiveness (**Col 3:13-14**).

Application & Conclusion:

1. Forgiveness and love rebuilds bridges they may have been burned previously.
2. Forgiveness opens hearts while being unforgiving and bitter only builds walls.
3. Christ keeps it simple. If you want to be forgiven you must forgive (**Mt 6:14-15**).
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9