

Implications for Marriage from Matthew 18

1. Forgiveness is both a decision and a process.
2. Forgiveness is costly.
3. Unforgiveness is just as costly.
4. A lack of forgiveness is a horrible witness.
5. Forgiveness means no longer keeping a record.
6. Forgiveness must be reflected in your heart.
7. Forgiveness means forbearance over the long-haul.
8. Christian forgiveness is possible because of the Cross.

Core Seminars—Marriage
Week 6

Marriage and the Gospel

How Does the Gospel Transform Our Marriages?

The Gospel and Marriage

- GOD
- MAN
- CHRIST
- RESPONSE

Salvation, Love, Grace, and Faith

- Ephesians 2:1-10.
- Theme: God lavishes his grace on us by saving sinners through his own initiative.
- Vs. 1-3.
- Vs. 4-10.

Implications for our Marriages from Ephesians 2

1. *“But God...made us alive...”*

Principle: Our sanctification flows from our justification. Real change in your marriage (sanctification) is possible because you are saved.

2. *“But God...even when we were dead in transgressions” “It is by grace you have been saved...”*

Principle: When we see how God treats us in our salvation, it sets a pattern for our marriages. In the face of our spouse’s sin, we want to be like God—we want to be loving and gracious towards our spouse’s sin.

3. *“...through faith...”*

Principle: The battle in marriage is often for faith or unbelief.

Forgiveness

- Matthew 18:21-35

- What’s the point of the parable?
 - The story encourages us to marvel at God, who forgave us such an incalculable debt.

 - Forgiven sinners forgive sin.

 - If a person is unwilling to forgive, it shows that (1) God’s mercy has not transformed their heart and life (vs. 32-33); and (2) they will be liable to pay the consequences for their sins (vs. 34-35).

Definition: Forgiveness is a cancelling or paying in full for a “debt” that someone else has created (Matt 6:12; 18:27, 32).