

2013 Puget Sound Bible Students Convention

Mercy and Forgiveness

If you use examples, please only use TRULY hypothetical ones. As much as possible in these examples, include scriptural evidence to prove that scriptural principles (not just opinions) are being applied.

General Refs: June 23 Songs in the Night; Dec 14 Manna;

Note: The below references are intended as beginning references only.

1) a) Briefly define mercy & forgiveness. b) What is meant by the phrase “bowels of mercies” in Col 3:12-14? (R4829:Sec4)

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph 4:32 KJV)

2) Eph 4:32 makes a direct comparison between God's forgiveness of the Christian, and our forgiveness of brethren. Briefly, (at a high level without going into the later questions) in what ways are they the same? What ways are they different? (R2294:Sec6; R2587:Sec3)

Righteous Reproof

3) a) If reproof be necessary, how can it be given in a “righteous” manner? (R4977:Sec2-3; R5885:Sec4; Pro 27:9; Gal 6:1) b) Even if a reproof is not given in the best way, how do the scriptures suggest we receive that reproof? (i.e. even if only 10% true, how can we best receive the 10%)

"If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him." (Luke 17:3 KJV)
R5445 “Verses 3 and 4 are apparently a part of the same discourse recorded in Matthew 18:15-22”

4) In Mat 18, consider the lessons just prior to and just after our Lord's rule for correcting all personal misunderstandings (verses 15-22). Briefly, what are the lessons from each and how does each relate to this rule?

- a) Verses 1-5?
- b) Verses 6-10?
- c) Verses 11-14?
- d) Verses 23-35?

5) a) Remembering that we are fallen creatures also, what kind of things would be serious enough not to manifest forgiveness without some signs of repentance? (R2296:Sec1; R4978:Col 1) b) If one repents, how many times should we be willing to forgive him?

6) a) What would be the right & wrong reasons for withholding forgiveness? (R3744) b) Should we require an apology or is discontinuing the wrong sufficient? Why? (R5409:Sec1; R2807:Sec6 to 2808:Sec 1)

7) Should both outward forgiveness & forgiveness from the heart be withheld? (R2296:Sec4; R4978:Sec4)

8) Briefly, describe the process in Mat 18:15-22 & its purpose. (R4984; PE421) (i.e. To be righteous and helpful in what manner and spirit should the offending one be approached? What do you look for in those that you might bring with you? Why is it important not to discuss it ahead of time with those you bring? etc.)

-- The Convention Theme Text --

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:" (Luke 6:36-37 KJV)

We may say "Oh yes I have forgiven one" but have we? (R2295:Sec 5) Sometimes 30 years later something may come back in the mind that has not been thought of in years. Is it possible to forgive so it does not come back to mind? Without realizing we can find ourselves thinking about things and some bitterness begins. How can we detect the bitterness soon enough? Consider these things and more as you answer the following questions. The intent is not to judge others in these things, but to consider how we personally can truly forgive.

9) Forgiveness is not a trivial thing. What is the danger of not forgiving from the heart? (R2294:1st Paragraph of article; R3604:Sec3-4; Dec 14 Manna)

10) How do we recognize (as quickly as possible) whether we have truly forgiven from the heart or not? (i.e. What are some clear indications?) (R2296:Sec 1; R4759:Sec3,6; PE121:last par-122)

11) How do we truly forgive from the heart? How can unseen powers of darkness complicate these things? (Give hypothetical examples) (R4760:Sec1,4; R4759:Sec3,6; R5309:Sec5) (R5603:Sec4 to end)

Further Considerations if Time Permits

12) Peter denied the Lord. That was a serious thing. Consider how we can use some of the same methods (as our Lord) in dealing with the brethren that have likewise been overcome in a weakness.

a) If a brother trespasses against us, what are some of the ways we could give the benefit of the doubt and take a higher view of the brethren in our thoughts?

- (Consider the R4712:Sec 5 suggestion that when our Lord "looked" at Peter right after Peter denied him, it was not a look of disdain but sorrow – Lu 22:61)
- (Consider that after our Lord's resurrection, Mary was told to go tell his disciples and especially Peter about it (Mar 16:7; R1522:Sec4).

b) Explain our Lord's kind approach in reproving and thus assisting Peter. What are some practical ways that we could properly use the same or similar methods? (R5053:Sec4-5; SM432:Par2)

Except as otherwise stated, Reprint references are given in "Section" format as in the "Expanded Biblical Comments":

R5053:Sec4-5 - "Sec" refers to the Section of Reprint page per below chart – i.e. section 4 through 5:

1	4
2	5
3	6

PE – Refers to "Pilgrim Echoes"

SM – Refers to "Sermon Book"-