

GOD & me

God Forgives Me & I Forgive Others

February 21, 2016 / Jeff Gunn

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:2-3, NIV**

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:30-32, NIV**

With Jesus, _____ comes _____. He wants us to _____ to keep the unity in our church family.

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. **Matthew 18:15-17, NIV**

To make every effort to keep the unity, we will need to end "_____ - _____" and...

- Put spiritual issues—_____—on the table.
- Pursue these issues until you have made _____ effort to _____ them.
- Do it with only one _____ in mind: To _____ your brother or sister.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." **Matthew 18:18-20, NIV**

Jesus has given the church family incredible power and authority to _____ or _____.

- Bind - Refuse to _____.
- Loose - Agree to _____.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. **Matthew 18:26-27, NIV**

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **Matthew 18:21-22, NIV**

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." **Matthew 18:35, NIV**

Within the church family, Jesus wants us to be _____ forgivers, because he himself _____ forgives us.

For meditation: Who needs my relentless forgiveness? Whose relentless forgiveness do I need?

MEMORY VERSE

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:32, NIV**

Bottom line: In Christ, God forgives me—relentlessly—and passionately desires me to forgive others—relentlessly!

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.