

Don't Play Games With God

Scripture: II Peter 3:15-18 (“Grow” 1. “in grace” 2. “in knowledge”)

Intro: There are some qualities of Christian behaviour that should be a part of each Christian's life, and when lacking, examination of self should immediately set in. (Heb. 4:12)

1. (Plead) Confession of sin. (I Jn. 1:9; 2:1-2 (Reason)
2. (Prayer) Communion of Spirit. (Jn. 16:13; Ps 119:9, 11) (Resting)
3. (Purpose) Consecration to service. (Lk. 9:23) (Right)

I. Forget: Past Tense. (Phil. 3:13-14)

- A. Attitude in reference to past.
 1. Social status: Greatness. (Phil. 3:4-10)
 2. Sinful status: Godliness. (Heb. 10:17)
- B. Attitude in reference to problems. (Heb. 12:1-2)
 1. Shed sin's shackle and forget it. (Pr. 28:13-14; Heb. 3:12-13)
 2. Shun slowing weights and forge on. (Phil. 3:14-15)
 - a. Bad attitudes: Bitterness. (Heb. 12:15)
 - b. Fads about: You don't have to do what everybody else is doing. (Jas. 1:13-15; Ro. 6:23)

Car bumper sticker: “Remember a Christian is not perfect. He is forgiven.” (Pr. 11:2) “When pride cometh, then cometh shame.”)

II. Forgive: Present Tense. (Eph. 4:30-32)

- A. Attitude in regard to people. (Mt. 6:14-15; I Jn. 2:12)
 1. Forgiving spirit necessary to fellowship. (Ps. 66:18; Isa. 59:1; Jer. 5:25)
 2. Forgiving sinner needs an apology from sinner. (Mt. 18:21-22; Lk. 17:3-4)
 - a. Compassion absolute need toward others. (Jd. 22-23; Jas. 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1,10)
 - b. Consideration of self: How did God forgive you? (Eph. 4:32)
- B. Attitude in regard to self personally. (Ro. 5:8; I Jn. 1:9)
 1. Forgiven people find it easier to forgive: Malice? Grudge? Retaliation?
 2. Forgiving people are bigger people inwardly: Pure. Peace. (Col. 3:13)
 - a. They face reality of their feelings.
 - b. They face reality of their fellowship. (Prodigal: Shamefulness & filthiness of a muddy pig sty.)

Illustration: Little boy asked what forgiveness is and gave answer. “It's the odor that flower breathe when they are trampled upon.”

III. Forbear: Prevention Trait. (Col. 3:12-13; Eph. 4:2)

- A. Restore people who stray. (I Jn. 5:16)
 - 1. Be spiritual in approach. (Gal. 6:1)
 - 2. Be straight in appeal. (Jn. 8:32, 36; Jas. 5:19-20)
- B. Request prayerfully for saints who stray. (Eph. 6:18; I Tim. 2:1-2; II Tim. 4:16)
 - 1. Pray that they will stay right. (II Cor. 13:7; I Sam. 15:10-11)
 - 2. Pray that they will get right.