**Teach us to Pray – Matt. 6:12**

**Focal Truth: When you pray – pray for God to forgive your sins as you forgive others**

Why do I need to ask for forgiveness if I am already forgiven & justified?

Do you ask God the Father to forgive your sins?

When you pray do you confess to God the Father that you have forgiven others?

*Today we learn how disciples pray to their heavenly Father for forgiveness*

*Today we learn how disciples confess as they pray that they have forgiven others*

*Who can say forgive us of our sins? Only the one who can say Our Father! - Lloyd Jones*

**Observations**

1. **Pray – Heavenly Father forgive us our sin debts toward you 6:12**

*Forgive us our debts…*

1. Disciples of Jesus pray for forgiveness as they remember that they have offended God the Father by practicing sin
2. Disciples of Jesus pray for God the Father’s forgiveness of their debts even though they are saved – justified

Col. 2:13 – *you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your heart, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions*

1 John 2:12 – *your sins have been forgiven for His name’s sake*

1. Disciples of Jesus still sin against God & others

Believer’s still have an old sin nature within them drawn by temptation into sin

Rom.7:17 – *I am no longer the one that is doing it but sin which dwells in me…I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members*

1. Disciples of Jesus have been forgiven but need forgiveness for each day’s sins as we walk through the world

The Prodigal Son cried to his father – I have sinned

David cried to God – I have sinned

1. Disciples of Jesus confess their sin to maintain their fellowship with God the Father

1 John 1:6 – 9 – ***if*** *we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;* ***if*** *we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin****. If*** *we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us****. If*** *we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse from all unrighteousness*

**Consider**

* Every day in secret the believer confesses to God the Father his present sins
* Confessing sin to God the Father maintains fellowship with God the Father
* Confession of sin should be specific telling God the Father your sin debts toward him and others
* Jesus warns us that those who won’t forgive others are not forgiven of their daily sins

**Matt. 6:15 – if you do not forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will not forgive your transgressions**

1. **Pray – Heavenly Father forgive us our sin debts toward others 6:12**

Forgive us our debts…

1. Disciples of Jesus sin against others – Eph. 4:25 – 31
* Lay aside falsehood, speak the truth each one of you with his neighbor
* Let him who steals no longer, but labor so that he will have something to share with one who has need
* Let no unwholesome words proceed out of your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification, according to the need of the moment, it will give grace to those who hear
* Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you along with all malice
1. Disciples of Jesus sin against others is a sin debt they cannot repay or take back
* Lies cannot be taken back, unwholesome words cannot be taken back
* Bitterness breaks relationships
* Anger, clamor separates friends
* Slander destroys the reputation of the innocent

**Consider**

* Believer’s sin against believers produces grief, sadness & pain
* Believer’s sin against believers leaves emotional marks
* Believer’s sin against believer dishonors God & His grace
1. **Pray – Heavenly Father we have forgiven those with sin debts against us 6:12**

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

1. Disciples of Jesus forgive others because of gospel forgiveness

Eph. 4:32 – *be kind to one another, tender – hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you*

Col. 3:13 – *bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you*

**Consider**

* Believers forgive like Christ with compassion
* Believers forgive with kindness
* Believers forgive with humility
* Believers forgive with gentleness
* Believers forgive with patience
* Believers forgive sincerely
* Believers forgive fully
* Believers forgive frequently

**There is nothing more tormenting than unforgiveness toward others!**

Matt. 18:34 – 35 – *the Lord turned him over to the tormentors until he should repay all that he owed, My heavenly Father will also do the same if each of you does not forgive his brother from the heart*

**Things to Remember and Do**

1. Believer’s everyday sin must be confessed to God the Father
2. Nothing should grieve us more than allowing sin to break our fellowship with God
3. The forgiven – forgive!
4. Unforgiveness of others blocks our prayer to God the Father

**Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**