

# Marriage Matters—Session 9

A biblical study guided by Winston Smith's book, *Marriage Matters*

## Key Ideas from Last Lesson

- Conflicts are often battles for things we want
- Know your real enemy.
- In conflict we are tempted to immediately place blame on our spouses, but the Bible teaches us to examine our own hearts and look for desires that we need to repent of because they have become more important to us than loving God or our spouse.
- Working through conflict in a godly way requires that you grow in wisdom and act in love. You need the wisdom to size up your own heart, your spouse's heart, and the situation as best you can, and to act in faith and love.

## What Do You Know About Forgiveness?

Write T (true), F (false), or ? (I don't know) next to each statement.

1. Not everyone deserves to be forgiven.
2. There is a limit to what can be forgiven.
3. Forgiveness requires the other person to ask for forgiveness.
4. We should always forgive because God in Christ has forgiven us.
5. Forgiving someone removes all consequences.
6. Forgiving someone means letting go of your right to punish him.
7. Forgiveness does not always look the same for each person.
8. The purpose of forgiveness is to restore a relationship.
9. Forgiveness restores a relationship to where it once was.
10. Forgiveness has to flow from your emotions.
11. To truly forgive is to forget what happened.
12. Having to forgive someone is an unfortunate necessity.

## Forgiveness Defined

While forgiveness is something that people do and can be observed, it is ultimately a supernatural act.

Read Matthew 5:23-24

1. What does this command reveal about what is important to God?
2. Why do you think is important to God?
3. What does this highlight about our worship of God and the act of forgiveness?

Read Hebrews 10:19-22

4. What images of God's forgiveness can you find in this passage?
5. How were these images reminders to the people of God's holiness and their sinfulness?
6. How were these images also reminders to the people of God's love for them?
7. What then was signified when the curtain was torn in two at Jesus' death?
8. What do you think is the significance of the dead rising from their graves?
9. What has Jesus' death accomplished?

## Learning to Forgive as God Forgives

Colossians 3:13.

God decided to \_\_\_\_\_ us from the penalty of our sin

God decided to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to forgive

God decided to \_\_\_\_\_ good through our sinfulness

God decided to allow us to \_\_\_\_\_

## How Forgiveness Works

In forgiveness we practice and extend to others what God has given to us.

Listen to the following scenario and determine what Jonathan will need to do to forgive his wife:

1. How might Jonathan feel tempted to punish his wife?
2. What will it look like to release her from any penalty?
3. What might he need to sacrifice to be able to release her?
4. How can he set his mind to trust God and allow for growth?

## Confessing Sin and Asking for Forgiveness

Confession is about being restored to God, not just saying \_\_\_\_\_

Confession isn't about getting something \_\_\_\_\_

Don't \_\_\_\_\_

Get \_\_\_\_\_

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Exactly how did you lose your temper? (Exactly how did you sin?)
2. What was going on in your heart?
3. What was the spiritual battle?

Express genuine \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_