

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **May 6, 2018** sermon, "7 Reasons to Forgive." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 2:5-11) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

1. Because it's not about you (5)
  - a. Paul asked that forgiveness be offered to the one had wronged him and repented.
  - b. The goal of confrontation and discipline is to win the sinner back to obedience.
  - c. Since God has forgiven, so should we.
2. Because the sinner has suffered enough (6)
  - a. There needs to be a pathway back to wholeness; a pathway "home."
  - b. Do not punish the repentant sinner more than God himself.
3. Because forgiveness brings gladness (7)
  - a. We take our portable fortresses out on to the battle field to bring healing/comfort.
  - b. Otherwise the sinner might be dragged out to sea in overwhelming sorrow.
4. Because forgiveness shows love (8)
5. Because forgiveness reveals obedience (9)
  - a. Simple obedience is a high motivation. Bring your will in line with God's will.
  - b. It's not about if you are ready, or if you want to forgive. Submit to God's will now.
6. Because forgiveness produces unity (10)
7. Because forgiveness defeats Satan's schemes (11)
  - a. Everything is new in God's kingdom.
  - b. While Satan wants angst and grudges, God desires unity and love.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Is there any place in your life where your closest friends treat a rival poorly because they are loyal to you? Is there any place where you feel betrayed because your closest friends are kind to a rival? How does the idea that "it is not about you" instruct you in this?
2. Based on #2, above: We often have a personal expectation of how much we think the sinner should suffer, and we are not willing to forgive until we think the sinner has suffered enough. Are you willing to completely submit yourself to allowing God and God alone take care of the consequences that the sinner must face? At work? At home? How is this difficult for you?
3. Based on #5, above: Obedience is the act of submitting your will to God's will. Paul introduces this paragraph with the word, "now" (v. 5), indicating that it is "now time to obey God" in this matter of forgiving a repentant brother. You may not be "ready," but obedience is required. Talk about "readiness," timing and obedience in the matter of forgiving.
4. Based on #7, above: It is Satan's desire for us to be unforgiving and bitter. But in God's family, the schemes of Satan will be defeated. How will it impact the church and our children if we are obedient to the Lord in this area of authentic forgiveness? What impact will it have on their emotions? Their behavior? Their understanding of God? Their love for others?