



SUFFERING FORGIVENESS

PSALM 133-134

1. Our _____ brings covering, nourishment & legacy.

Psalm 133 [2] *It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!* [3] *It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.*

2. Our _____ identifies us as Christians

John 13:34–35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

3. Our _____ is a witness to the truth of Jesus.

John 17:21 *...that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

4. _____ is the heartbeat of unity.

...FROM TIM KELLER'S *FORGIVE*

- **FORGIVE UNCONDITIONALLY** – (aka cheap grace) There are no conditions on the forgiveness, no consequence for the perpetrator. All emphasis is on the victim being “therapeutically liberated” from anger. Forgive because it’s good for you. Don’t worry about Justice.
- **FORGIVE TRANSACTIONALLY** - Forgiveness depends on the perpetrator meriting forgiveness. Victim gives up anger only if there is sincere repentance and reparation.
- **NO FORGIVENESS** - Forgiveness is abandoned in favor of justice

READ THIS! MATTHEW 18:21-35

5. Biblical forgiveness is _____ forgiveness.

[2] *It is like the precious oil on the head, running down...*

Matthew 18:27 *And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.*

6. Human forgiveness _____ on Divine forgiveness.

Colossians 3:13–14 *...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

FORGIVENESS RESOURCES

- **FORGIVE** by Tim Keller
- **UNPACKING FORGIVENESS** by Chris Brauns
- **TOTAL FORGIVENESS** by R.T. Kendall

DIGGING DEEPER

Questions and reflections for your own personal or group study.

1. What is the biggest struggle you have in remaining unified with other believers? What causes division *for you*?
2. Is unity really all that important? Why or why not?
3. Read Matthew 18:21-35
4. What is the role that forgiveness plays in the unity of the church?
5. What is the hardest thing about forgiveness *for you*?
6. Do you agree with our culture that *forgiveness cancels justice*? How can this be true?
7. What does the Bible have to say about this? (re-read Rom. 12:17-21)
8. Do you have to renew a commitment to forgiveness, and therefore unity? What’s your plan to do that?