

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

David cried out in his guilt, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psa. 51:10) He goes on to say, “Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.” (Psa. 51:13) God forgave David and David followed through because God *trusted* him with forgiveness.

We have something that David didn't possess at that time: Christ! God wants to pardon us. That's hard for us to accept. His forgiveness is rich and deep. He forgives permanently because of His promise through Jesus (Heb. 8:11-12).

To be forgiven should move our hearts into a freedom and response to His deep love for us. When God forgives us, He *trusts* us with His forgiveness that we will make a response and commitment to Him. What kind of response? A free, wholehearted forgiveness of others! No reservations, no hesitations, but helping them as we were helped. When one is freed from the guilt of sin, they are free to offer that to others. If one isn't forgiven, they find great difficulty forgiving others. In other words, they are still a slave to sin! They can't forgive and forget! That's nothing like the Lord.

Forgiveness breeds forgiveness! Forgiveness leads us to teaching and helping others who are enslaved in sin and burdened with guilt. It makes you reach out when you have no reason to reach out. It motivates you in serving and helping the Lord's cause. Forgiveness brings about love.

The unforgiven are burdened. Their attitudes reveal it and it takes so much effort just to move forward. The unforgiven love no one but themselves. Their lives revolve around what makes them happy and content. There is little reaching out and helping of others.

Our sins are crimes against God. Our sins put the whippings, crown of thorns and the nails in Jesus' body. Why would God do such to His own? So we could live! So we could be forgiven! So we could find the burden of guilt lifted and be free to help and teach others. Remember, our forgiveness wasn't purchased with money or perishable things. We were bought back, forgiven with the precious blood of Christ (I Pet. 1:19). He was freely offered but the price paid was great. How do you respond to forgiveness? Do you say, “*I will teach others Your way and convert sinners to you?*” Your attitudes and behavior reveal the effect of forgiveness in your heart. Think about it!!!