

## **GOD'S PLAN OF FORGIVENESS**

### Part 2: Developing a Biblical Theology of Forgiveness

#### Lesson 3 – Forgiveness is Not Free

#### Class Handout

### **Forgiveness is Expensive**

- Historical Perspective on Most Valuable Purchases
- Why is Forgiveness Expensive?
- What is the Cost?

### **Guilt For Sin (Hebrew *awon*)**

- Gen 2:7
- Gen 2:17
- Gen 3:19
- What did Adam lose? What did he earn?

### **Forgiveness and Christ's Atonement**

- Everyone tells you "God is love." What else about God do they often omit?
- What gets sacrificed at the expense of the other? God's Love or Justice? What does Exodus 34:6-7 say about this?
- What does *Atonement* accomplish?
- What does Scripture say about *Propitiation*? Why is it important? (Rom 3:24-25; Heb 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10)

### **The Cost of Forgiving One Another**

- Who paid for, or "absorbed," the cost for you to be forgiven and redeemed?
- In what way are we as Christians called to reflect, as image-bearers of God, His love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness? (Mt 18:33)

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- When you forgive a brother, who bears, pays for, “absorbs” the cost?
- What might your forgiveness of a brother cost you, generally? Any thoughts on what that could mean (or has meant), *specifically*?
- God holds sinner accountable for their sin. Since we are to forgive “as God forgives”, how does this apply to you when your brother commits a potentially destructive sin? (Mt 18:15-17)
- Who ultimately paid the price for all forgiveness of sins, both vertically (sins against God) and horizontally (sins against one another)?
- Does Scripture associate forgiveness with ignoring or “tolerating” an offense?

### The Benefits of Being Forgiven

- If forgiveness means the offended party absorbs the cost for the offender’s sin, what is the result for the offender who sinned?
  - Is this fair? Is it just? Why or why not? If not, then what is it?
- How does the *price* for forgiveness compare to the most costly purchases in human history?
- If Jesus didn’t pay the price for forgiveness, what would that have meant for you?
- Who should pay the price when your brother sins against you and then repents?