

## ***The Church's Call to Forgive***

*Jesus's teaching on how to love another – (Part 4 of 4)*  
*Loving one another requires forgiving those who sin against us*  
Matthew 18:21-35

I. Introduction: Steve Saint: How the son of a martyr came to forgive his father's killer

The broader context of this text in Matthew 18:

the seriousness with which sin is to be dealt with

the final word in this sermon is not *excommunication*, but *forgiveness*

II. Exposition of 18:21-35

A. The virtue and weakness of Peter's question (21-22)

B. The merciful king forgives an insurmountable debt (23-27)

Amazing grace! God forgives our insurmountable sin debt

Our hopeless debt, our only plea, and God's infinite mercy

C. The unmerciful servant does not forgive a smaller debt owed him (28-31)

We need to understand the magnitude of our sin debt

Does forgiveness require repentance?

1. immediate forgiveness from the heart

Luke 11:4, Mark 11:25, Col 3:12, Eph 4:24

2. restorative forgiveness requires repentance

Luke 17:3-5

D. The king's reaction to the unmerciful servant (32-34)

True Gospel forgiveness, while having no required conditions,  
is not without expected consequences.

E. The Christian's response to judgment (35)

Does this teach salvation by works?

What about "eternal security?"

III. Conclusion: Our responsibility to love one another in the church