

Text: Matthew 6:14-15
Topic: Prayer. Forgiveness.
Series: none

November 9, 1997
Pastor Mike

97-41

When Your Prayers Hit the Ceiling

The Effect of "You and Me" on "Me and Him"

6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' 14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.'" (NIV)

1. The Inevitable Reality... *Get Ready!*

A. *The World Will* _____

B. *Christians Will* _____

2. The Costly Option... *Don't Make It One!*

A. *It Creates* _____

B. *It Could* _____

3. The Only Reasonable Response... *Get It All In Perspective!*

A. *Your Debt* _____

B. _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you to apply the principles to your life situation. These questions are also used as the basis of discussion for many of our small group studies that meet throughout the week. For times and locations of PCC's small group gatherings call the church office (714-489-2600).

1. Attempt to describe, differentiate, and give some examples of the varied expressions of "unforgiveness" listed below.
 - Describe the experience of unforgiveness that expresses itself through a vehement hatred toward another person.
 - Describe the experience of unforgiveness that harbors "resentment" and holds "grudges" toward another person.
 - Describe the experience of unforgiveness that surfaces subtly in sarcasm and belittling of another person either directly (to their face) or indirectly (behind their back).
 - Describe the experience of unforgiveness that results in neglect and disregard toward another person.
2. In light of your descriptions for each of these expressions of unforgiveness, what "warning signs" do you see in your own life that may indicate that you have an unforgiving attitude toward someone.
3. Describe your feelings and emotions toward the depth and sincerity of the forgiveness that you have received from God in being *justified* at your conversion. Before you begin to respond to this question read Psalm 103.

Describe your feelings and emotions toward God's "slow to anger" and "quick to forgive" attitude throughout the process of your *sanctification* over the months or years since you have been a Christian. To what extent and in what ways has God "patched up" your relational ties in the wake of your sins against him?

4. What will you do this week to forgive and/or reaffirm your love toward those from whom you have previously withheld your sincere and complete forgiveness?