“Forgiving One Another”
Eph. 4:32

Introduction:
A. How would life be without forgiveness — both human and divine?
   1. Without it there would be no Christians (Acts 2:38 - NIV).
   2. Without it there could be no close relationships.
B. Our study will concentrate on three aspects of “forgiving one another.”

Discussion:
II. The Meaning of Forgiving One Another.
A. The basic meaning is “release” or “let go” (Thayer, Strong).
   1. Like releasing a debt (Matt. 6:12; Luke 11:4).
   2. Like removing a lien on property.
B. The practical meaning is seen from parallel expressions.
   4. “Remember no more” (Heb. 10:17,18).
C. Forgiveness is complete — no degrees.

III. The Need to Forgive One Another.
A. All sins offend God, most offend others.
B. Our own forgiveness depends on it. (Matt. 6:14,15; 18:21-35).
   (Barnes compares money in parable as $15 versus $15 million)

IV. The Conditions for Forgiving One Another.
A. Unconditional forgiveness is a product of misguided idealism.
   1. Does not hold one responsible for actions.
   2. The banner placed in Kentucky school after shooting (Reader’s Digest)
   3. Bought into by many in and out of the church.
B. Biblical forgiveness requires repentance by the offender.
   1. Not talking about mere mistakes or annoyances - but real sins.
   2. God’s forgiveness is conditional (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 John 1:9).
      Note: Lord’s prayer in Lk. 23:34 note answered without repentance (Acts 2:36-38).
   3. Our forgiveness also conditional (Luke 17:3,4; Matt. 18:15-18).
C. Biblical forgiveness involves effort by the offended.
   1. As the offended party, God spares no effort in bringing offenders to repentance.
   2. As the offended party, we must do all we can to bring offender to repentance.

Conclusion:
A. To forgive without repentance minimizes the seriousness of sin.
B. To fail to forgive after repentance also minimizes the seriousness of sin.