

SHE PROVES

faithful

TOPIC:

Fellowship Plan 3: Confronting and Forgiveness in Community

KEY VERSE:

Romans 15:7

OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn what makes it possible for Christians welcome one another
2. Learn two aspects of Christian community: confronting sin & covering sin
3. Discover the importance of forgiveness in community.

I. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is the most difficult part about being in community with other Christians?

How does sin disrupt deep, gospel-centered community?

II. SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSSION

Romans 15:7 says we are to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us. To welcome is to receive, to accept as a friend. On the surface this seems simple, but people are messy. Friendships and community take a lot of work. Think of what we were when Christ extended his welcome - we were a wreck, unrighteous, selfish, and jaded, yet we were extended friendship with Jesus and he began to change us. Welcoming other Christians and building community involves hard things like confrontation of sin and lots of forgiveness. Community is good but can be messy; without confronting each other and forgiving each other, it's next to impossible.

When people sin against us, it hurts and the relationship can be negatively impacted. As Christians we are called to either confront the person and their sin, or cover over the sin with love (letting it roll off our backs and forgetting about it). It involves wisdom and grace from God to discern what you should do when a Christian sins against you. In either case we are commanded to forgive, whether we confronted, or decided to just forget about it.

1. Confronting sin - Read Luke 17:3-4, Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1
 - What instruction does God's word give about confronting the sin of another?
 - Why is confronting sin important for community?
 - In Galatians 6:1 "you who are spiritual" are called to restore their friends in a spirit of gentleness. Why is it important to be maturing in our faith when it comes to confrontation?
2. Covering sin (letting go) - Read 1 Peter 4:8, Colossians 3:12-14, Romans 15:1-3
 - What does it mean to cover a sin with love and just let it go?
 - When is it ok to just let go of an offense instead of confronting? How is this helpful to community?
3. Forgiveness - Read Luke 17:3-4, Colossians 3:13, Matthew 18:21-35
 - What does God's Word say about forgiving others? How often?
 - Why is it important to remember how much Christ has forgiven us when we forgive others?
 - How does forgiveness impact our fellowship with other believers?

III. TAKING ACTION

Read Matthew 18:21-35 several times this week. Ask God to search your heart about forgiveness.