MOTIVATED TO FORGIVE

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-15

Introduction:
1. We are a new creation in Christ. The newness includes new attitudes toward others
2. The bible gives us many great reasons to forgive others.

I. WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN
A. JESUS PROVIDED FORGIVENESS
   1. He gave us reconciliation to the Father -2Co 5:17-21
   2. We have been saved from wrath through Him -Ro 5:8, 9
   3. We have been redeemed -Ep 1:7

B. THEREFORE, WE FORGIVE OTHERS
   1. Just as God has forgiven us -Ep 4:32
   2. It is the character of the new man -Co 3:12-15

II. FORGIVENESS DISPLAYS JESUS IN OUR LIVES
A. JESUS FORGAVE OTHERS
   1. The paralytic -Mk 2:1-11
   2. Woman in adultery -Jn 8:1-12
   3. The thief on the cross -Lk 23:42, 43

B. WE MAY BE THE ONLY IMAGE OF JESUS SOME SEE
   1. Hatefulness only reflects the world.
   2. Therefore, we must be like Jesus -Ga 2:20; 2Co 3:18

III. KEEPS BRETHREN FROM THE DEVIL
A. THE MAN IN CORINTH
   1. He had his father's wife -1Co 5:1-ff
   2. He repented and needed to be restored -2Co 2:1-ff (vs. 11)

B. IF WE FAIL TO FORGIVE
   1. The sinner will go back to the world if he/she cannot find a place here.
   2. Forgiveness is a vital part of restoration -Ga 6:1; Ja 5:19, 20; Jude 23

Eric Hicks
IV. WE FORGIVE TO BE FORGIVEN
   A. THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT -Mt 18:21-35
   B. THE APPLICATION
      1. We all stand in need of forgiveness from God.
      2. Through Jesus we have found the grace we needed.
      3. We must have mercy upon others
      4. Without it, we cannot be forgiven -Mt 6:14, 15

Conclusion:
1. Forgiveness is a vital part of the Christian life.
   a. Other see the grace of God through us
   b. Brothers and sisters are restored through forgiveness
   c. Our souls are made secure when we show forgiveness to others.
2. Let us continue to forgive. Let us be like Jesus.