

Here in This House

Sermon Notes

For Message October 29, 2006
North Main Street Church of God
Pastor Tim Falling

Scripture References

Primary Text:

Matthew 18:21-35, *The Story of the Unforgiving Debtor*

Supporting Verses:

Forgiveness: Matthew 6:12, James 2:13, Galatians 5:19-26, Ephesians 4:31-32,* Colossians 3:12-17, Acts 2:42-47

Maturity: Romans 6:1-7, I Peter 2:1-3, Philippians 1:9-11, 3:12-14, Colossians 1:9-14

Memory Verse:

**Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*
Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)

Thoughts and Questions for Reflection

- When was a time in your life when you truly felt welcome in a new group or environment? What was it that made you feel welcome?
- Do those who are going through tough times in their lives and faith really feel welcome *here in this house*? If not, why not?
- What causes us or sometimes others to feel judged?
- What causes us to sometimes be, or come across as, unforgiving?
- Have you experienced a time when this statement rung true? “People often are most critical of others in areas where they are also struggling.”
- As we try to help those who are struggling, we can sometimes offer wise advice, but often we lack wisdom in the way we say it. When that occurs, what is the result of our sharing in that way?
- How can our willingness to be honest and transparent about our own struggles help others around us?
- Isn't it true that we can come to Christ regardless of where we are in our struggle? Is there anything we have to do to make ourselves right before accepting Christ?
- Once we have accepted God's grace, do we then have a responsibility to move beyond where we were to become more Christ-like?

Key Point

Wherever we are, or other people are in their walk with Christ, we want them to know they are welcome here. Our responsibility is to help create a safe place, where we can both receive and extend grace and genuine love as we walk this spiritual path together. This grace first comes from God, and because He first loved us, we are then able to share that love with others. It begins in our own homes, and extends to all of our other relationships, both within the church and beyond. My challenge is that we seek ways to begin the process of actively molding ourselves and ultimately our congregation to become and be known as a place where we can receive God's grace freely in our lives. Once we have received that grace, we can begin the path toward spiritual maturity.

WORD SEARCH

Key words from the song: "Here in This House"

H E C A E P L J P R O A
A L S E R M O E C A R G
B R A I T Y C R E M U N
L H T I A F Y L S G E I
E T A W N R T O A E H L
S P F A O L P V H P R A
S B E L I E V E T S I E
I A G H N V S T R A E H
N R T W T S R G G L R O
G N I T I A W O N N A Y
S D M R N E D I V O R P
E F O R G I V E N E S S

FAITH

BELIEVE

WAITING

FORGIVENESS

HEARTS

BLESSING

ANOINTING

GLORY

ARMS OPEN WIDE

MERCY

GRACE

HEALING

PRAISE

PROVIDE

LOVE

JOY

PEACE

SONG