

**One in Christ:
United to each other**

**Second talk:
Forgiving one another**

Two stories

- **Two old women and a 30 year old wound**
- **Kim Hyun-Sik and Kim Jong-Il**



The forgiveness trap

- **Forgiveness is not a feeling;**
- **Forgiveness is not a state; it is a process and a journey;**
- **Forgiveness is not about liking someone.**

The texts

- **Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. [Ephesians 4.32]**
- **Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [Colossians 3.13]**
- **Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. [James 5.16]**

‘Just as in Christ’

- *Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us: Not a spiritual quid pro quo but the spiritual imitation of Christ.*
- **Why does, and did Christ forgive?**
 - **The God project: the restoration of all things;**
 - **The character of God;**
 - **Because without it, we are trapped/imprisoned forever;**
 - **Precisely because forgiveness cannot be deserved, it is sheer gift.**

‘Just as in Christ’ – the work of the Kingdom

- **As Kingdom people: the restoration of the community, sharing in the God project;**
- **Our character: the imprint of God;**
- **We cannot choose to leave others in prison;**
- **We are gift-givers; in this we delight;**
- **And the confessor’s task.**

The 'mechanics' of forgiveness

- **Wanting to want to want to forgive - the intention;**
- **Appropriate actions:**
 - **Public confession (in Rock Park);**
 - **Private conference;**
 - **The 'sacrament' of reconciliation: works both ways;**
 - **Restitution – the belt in the Kim John-Il story.**
- **When the other is absent, or dead: acts of spiritual healing and forgiveness.**

Against the present culture

- **Shame, guilt and sin are different things;**
- **Chaucer's trilogy: contrition, confession, satisfaction;**
- **A second chance?**
- **Naïveté and cover-ups in the church – we must 'look good';**
- **The hardest thing of all: I don't deserve to be forgiven – the lack of self-love.**