

The Power Of Forgiveness

Definition of Forgiveness: To grant free pardon or remission of any offense or debt; to give up all claim.

- When you forgive a person, this does not mean you are immediately healed.
- When you forgive a person, this does not mean you are going to be buddy/buddy.
- When we forgive a person, this does not mean we surrender the right to restitution or justice when appropriate.
- When we forgive a person, this does not mean that we trust them yet.
- When we forgive a person, we are not avoiding pain, we are opening the door to healing.
- When we forgive, we take the journey at the pace we are able to handle...the deeper the hurt, the longer the journey.

I. Five things we need to know about FORGIVENESS:

1) Forgiveness is not just a suggestion, it's commanded!

Matt 6:14-15 (ESV)

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Mk. 11:25 (ESV) - And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Mat. 5:23-24 (ESV)

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Pr. 19:11 (ESV) - Good sense (wisdom) makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

Pr. 24:29 (ESV) - Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."

Pr. 19:18-20 (ESV)

18 Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.

19 A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.

2) Forgiveness is Limitless!

Matt. 18:21-22 (ESV)

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Gen. 4:24 (ESV) Where Lamech said, "If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

1Pet. 4:8 (ESV) - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Ps 103:12 (ESV) - as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

3) Unforgiveness will bring incredible hardships into your life!

Matt 18:23-35 (ESV)

23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers (torturers), until he should pay all his debt.

35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Heb. 12:15 (ESV) - See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Lk. 23:34 (ESV) - And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

4) Forgiveness is an act of the will!

Col. 3:12-13 (ESV)

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

5) Forgiveness is an act of faith!

Heb. 12:14-15 (ESV)

14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Lk. 17:3-6 (ESV)

3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,
 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."
 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
 6 And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Mt.13:6 (ESV) - but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

II. Reconciliation is always the answer!

Rom. 12:14-18 (ESV)

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.
 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Col. 2:6-7 (ESV)

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,
 7 ROOTED and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Eph. 3:16-21 (ESV)

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.