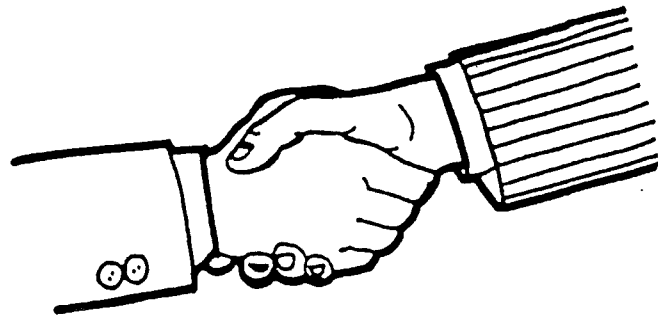


HOW TO FULLY FORGIVE ALL OFFENDERS

(Matthew 18:21-35)



"Lord, how often shall my brother
sin against me and I forgive him?
Till seven times?"
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Bill Kirk

“HOW TO FULLY FORGIVE ALL OFFENDERS”

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- I. Peter's Question - (V. 21) “How often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?”**
- A. The Jewish custom was to forgive 3 times?
 - B. Peter must have been proud to present this offer to Jesus of more than 3 times, (“How about seven times, Lord?”)
- II. Jesus' Answer - (Vs. 23-34)**
- A. A king takes account of his servants and finds one owing him 10,000 talents (about 9 1/4 million dollars).
 - 1. The king orders the servant and family to be sold for payment of the debt.
 - 2. The servant asks for patience, promising to pay his debt.
 - 3. The king was moved with compassion and frees him (completely forgiving the debt).
 - B. The forgiven servant now goes out and finds one owing him 100 pence (about \$15.00)
 - 1. This servant threatens and demands immediate payment.
 - 2. The debtor begs for forgiveness.
 - 3. The forgiven servant “would not” forgive but puts the man in prison.
 - C. The king or lord hears about the unforgiving servant and calls him “wicked”
 - 1. The servant that was forgiven of much, failed to pass on his forgiveness to another.
 - 2. He, in turn, loses his forgiveness from the Lord, and is delivered to his creditors to pay back all he owes.
 - 3. Jesus said, the unforgiver will be turned over to the tormentors.
- III. Our Response (V. 35)**
- “So likewise shall my Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”

What Jesus Teaches In This Parable

- #1. Our forgiveness of others is to be equal with God's forgiveness to us, limitless.
- #2. We who are forgiven by God of all, have no right or choice to think about forgiving. By right of our state of forgiveness in Christ, we are forbidden to harbor any bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness towards anyone.
- #3. God will treat us the same way if we do not forgive.
- #4. Forgiveness is not feeling (but a choice, an act of our will).
- #5. Christ is our pattern of forgiveness to follow, not man.

Why Forgiveness Is A Must

“...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:15)

How Bitterness Will Destroy (Torment)

- 1. Bitterness burns emotional energy. When this energy is exhausted, emotional depression results.
- 2. Bitterness leads to distrust. Because of being hurt by people in the past, a bitter person cannot trust another.
- 3. Bitterness causes a person to be hypersensitive to their own emotions, but insensitive to the feelings of others.
- 4. Bitterness causes ingratitude. A bitter person expects to be compensated for their hurts they have suffered. They feel the world owes them something.
- 5. Bitterness produces chemical imbalance in your body. Resentment brings forth excessive hormones from the pituitary, adrenal, and thyroid glands. This produces various illnesses and infirmities. (A proven medical fact.)
- 6. Bitterness leads to tension. Muscles become tense and muscle tone in the face becomes hard which prematurely damages the teeth.

7. Harboring an offense will also lead to:

- ◆ Selfishness
- ◆ A judgmental spirit
- ◆ Unanswered prayer
- ◆ A hardened heart
- ◆ Impatience
- ◆ A critical attitude
- ◆ A gossiping tongue
- ◆ Forfeiture of ministry

Unforgiveness Is:

The poison we drink while we wait for the other person to die.

How To Be Free From All Bitterness And Unforgiveness

- #1. See God's hand through your offender. God has allowed this person into your life to teach you something. Ask Him how He is strengthening you through your experience. (Remember Joseph's life and Romans 8:28)
- #2. Fully forgive your offender. (Ephesians 4:32) Forgive of any hurt or damage regardless of your feelings. By an act of your will, choose now to release them over to the Lord and be free from harboring any ill feelings.

4 Ways to Forgive

1. You can forgive because **you feel like it** (but you most likely won't feel like it.)
2. You can forgive because **your offender deserves it** (but they may not deserve it at all.)
3. You can forgive because you know **that God won't hear prayers** from an unforgiving heart (but this is selfish in nature itself and unpredictable.)
4. You can forgive because you know **that God has forgiven you of all (this is the Bible way).**

How to Forgive

◆ Forgive Immediately

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; leave thy gift before the altar and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (Matthew 5:23,24)

◆ Forgive Totally

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you". (Ephesians 4:32)

What Forgiveness Is Not:

- #1. Forgetting (Forgiveness doesn't mean you no longer remember what was done)
- #2. Reconciliation (Forgiveness doesn't mean that the other party will be open to unity and oneness)
- #3. Condoning (Forgiveness doesn't mean that you agree with what was done)
- #4. Dismissing (Forgiveness doesn't mean that you dismiss the offense as never happening or that someone was right)
- #5. Pardoning (Forgiveness doesn't mean that you pardon anyone - only God can pardon sin and sinners)

Forgiveness Is:

- ◆ Forgiveness is an act of the will in which we chose not to hold someone in debt for the wrong they have done to us.
- ◆ Forgiveness is "letting go" of its power over you!

And Never Forget This:

- ◆ Mature believers don't allow other people's actions to dictate theirs (if they do, the offender and their negative emotions become their master instead of Jesus Christ)

5 Facts To Remember

Fact: The willingness to forgive others is a Biblical sign of Spiritual maturity.

Fact: You are not great because of the criticisms you can conjecture, but because of the weaknesses you can forgive.

Fact: Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the handcuffs of hatred and the door of resentment.

Fact: Forgiveness in the Bible is the cancellation of a debt as if it never existed.

Fact: We may have a miracle ministry and see cancers fall on the floor, but without a forgiving spirit, we are charlatans.

Conclusion

Jesus said we are to "**Forgive from our heart**". I believe we can walk, maintaining a heart that lives in the state of forgiveness at all times. Even before we are offended, our heart is in the place of total forgiveness for any offender. When wronged, we can immediately release this offense to the Lord and continue to walk before God, free from any root of bitterness and unforgiveness.

We see this heart of forgiveness in the life of Jesus. Not only on the cross when offended, but in choosing Judas as one of the twelve disciples. Jesus knew 3 1/2 years before His betrayal ever took place; He even predicted it as did the Old Testament, yet He picks this disciple and allows him full privileges during his ministry. This is a heart full of forgiveness before the offense ever takes place. God help us all to walk, and maintain this heart of forgiveness at all times. With God's help it can be done!

Freely We Have Received - Freely We Give

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor

P.S. Lord Help Us to Remember These:

- #1. An enemy in the **heart** is worse than 10,000 in the **field**.
- #2. Bitterness is **failure to see suffering** from God's point of view.
- #3. Our offenses will either be our **tombstone** or our **stepping stone** (our choice to forgive determines the consequence).
- #4. A **bad attitude** makes a person a **prisoner** of their own experience.

"Love Keeps No Score Of Wrongdoing" (I Corinthians 13:5)