
The Sin of Unforgiveness

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- ◉ Forgiveness can be one of the most difficult things to do
 - ◉ Romans 12:14
 - ◉ Matthew 5:44
 - ◉ Grudges and un-forgiveness are often harbored for years or a lifetime
 - ◉ But what has God said?

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- Forgiveness must be understood in light of what brings about its need
 - Sin; wrong
 - In this lesson, we're talking about being wronged
 - God is the author of forgiveness
 - His attitude
 - Joel 2:13
 - Luke 23:34

What does it mean to forgive?

- What does it mean to forgive?
- What is not forgiveness?
- Why should we forgive?
- How bad is unforgiveness?
- What are some wrong attitudes?
- How should we forgive?
- Cultivating a heart of forgiveness

- How does God forgive?
- Acts 2:38
 - Remit, dismiss, release
- Acts 3:19
 - Blot out
- Hebrews 8:12
 - Remember no more
- Romans 3:24
 - No longer charged with penalty
 - Freely – as a gift without payment, neither merited nor deserved
 - Undeserved
 - Originating with grace – undeserved favor; kindness toward the ill-deserving

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● How does God forgive?

● Colossians 2:13

- Fully, not partially

● Luke 15:20-24

- Whole-heartedly, not with reservation or caution

● 1 John 1:9-10

- Repeatedly for the child of God who repents and confesses his sin to his Father

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□ Why should we forgive?

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What is *not* forgiveness?

● Certainly not retaliation

- Matthew 5:43-44

● Ignoring, shunning those who wrong us

- Book, chapter, verse?
- Matthew 5:44-45 – “do good”

● Won't retaliate, but will harbor bitterness and ill-will

- Ephesians 4:31-32

● Just ignore the sin?

- Matthew 18:15

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- ❑ **Why should we forgive?**
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Why should we forgive?

- ⊙ **Because it is commanded**
 - Mark 11:25
 - Colossians 3:13
 - Violation: Sin
- ⊙ **Because we have been forgiven**
 - Ephesians 4:32
- ⊙ **Because it is part of loving others**
 - 1 Peter 4:8
- ⊙ **Because it is practice of the “golden rule”**
 - Luke 6:31

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How bad is unforgiveness?

- If I am unforgiving, God will not forgive me
 - Mark 11:26
 - 1 John 1:8
- Unforgiveness is destructive
 - To others
 - 2 Corinthians 2:7-11
 - To self
 - Proverbs 8:36
 - Hebrews 12:14-15
 - James 3:13-16
 - Influence
 - John 13:35

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✓ Why should we forgive?

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□ What are some wrong attitudes?

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□ Cultivating a heart of forgiveness

How bad is unforgiveness?

● If I am unforgiving, torment awaits me

- Matthew 18:31-34
- What if I die, holding within me unforgiveness?

● How does Jesus describe the unforgiving in the parable?

- Wicked, v.32
- Without compassion, without pity, v.33
- Unreasonable, v.33
- Is this how you want to be known by God?
- Romans 1:31

What are some wrong attitudes?

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- “I’ll forgive but never forget”
 - Hebrews 8:12
- “I just can’t”
 - 1 John 5:3
- “I will when I feel like it”
 - Colossians 3:12-13
 - 1 Peter 3:9
 - John 13:17
 - Proverbs 27:1

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How should we forgive?

- Ephesians 4:32
- Freely – not forced nor coerced
- From the heart – not lip-service
 - Matthew 18:35
- Abundantly – not partially; unnumbered
- Quickly – not a little bit over time
- Finally – not to be brought up again

Cultivating a heart of forgiveness

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- **Cultivating a heart of forgiveness**

- Remember your forgiveness
 - Matthew 18:23-35
 - Humility and proper estimation of self
- Pray about it
 - Matthew 5:44
 - Ask God for help
 - Pray for the person's good
- Speak kindly to and about the person who has wronged you
- Cultivate mercy and compassion
 - Matthew 5:7
 - James 2:13
 - Practicing goodness, kindness, good deeds, good words

Practicing forgiveness in every relationship

- ◉ Husband, Wife
- ◉ Children
- ◉ Parents, children
- ◉ Brother, sister in the body of Christ
- ◉ In the world
 - Work
 - School
 - Play

Examine Yourself: Have I really forgiven?

- Do I secretly rejoice at his problems?
- Do I purposely avoid his presence?
- Is his wrong to me still vivid in my mind?
- Do I brood over wrong done to me?
- Do I pray to God for him?
- Have I sought opportunity to do favor?