

PRACTICING FORGIVENESS

10 June 2022

God gives instruction in the bible about our need to forgive others. That tells us that as we go through our Christian lives, people are certainly going to hurt us or offend us. God's instruction is to forgive them for your own benefit.

Forgive: To pardon. To remit (reduce, diminish) as an offense or a debt. To overlook an offense, to send it away. To treat the offender as not guilty. To reject the offense and send it away, not imputing it to the offender.

GOD FORGAVE US

Col 1:12-14 There was a time when we were NOT partakers of the inheritance of the saints. We were in darkness, but the Father translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. Our sins are forgiven through His blood.

- Thanks to the blood of Jesus Christ, God can rightly forgive ALL our sins, great and small. There is no sin too great that God cannot forgive it (except rejecting His Son).

1 Jn 1:8-9 Anyone who will acknowledge the fact that they are a sinner can be forgiven by God because **“The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”** (vs 7).

- All God requires of anyone is that they come to Him as a sinner seeking His forgiveness.

Luke 23:34 **“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”**

- We don't confess our individual sins, one by one, in order to be saved because an unsaved person doesn't know how many ways he has sinned against the Lord.
- As a child of God, Jesus Christ forgives us for the sins we know about and the sins we don't yet know to be sins. As we grow in the Lord, these sins come to light.
- In the presence of Jesus Christ, sins will come to light that we thought we had put away. No Christian can ever claim to be sinless. Thank God for His forgiveness!

THE LORD WANTS US TO FORGIVE OTHERS

We often offend others without knowing that we hurt them. With that in mind, we ought to consider that the one who offended us may not realize they hurt us.

- If you get offended by the actions of somebody, it is going to hurt you and your relationship with that person. You may expect an apology that will never come because they don't know they hurt you.
- We sin against Jesus Christ everyday and don't realize it. He forgives us to save the relationship.

Eph 4:30-32 Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking against others, and malice grieves the Holy Spirit. We are instructed to put it all away and be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving toward one another.

- Forgiveness is the cure for all of these grievances.
- Do it for Jesus **“even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”** (vs 32). We didn't deserve God's forgiveness, but He forgave us for Christ's sake.
 - Maintaining a good Christian testimony for Christ's sake (by forgiving one another instead of fighting one another) will benefit the furtherance of the gospel for Christ.
 - Don't let your unforgiveness blemish the name of Jesus Christ.

Col 3:12-13 Humbleness of mind and meekness on our part will reduce our *perception* of the offenses against us.

- The more highly you think of yourself, the harder it is for you to forgive somebody. You can greatly minimize conflicts by being humble.
- **“If any man have a quarrel against any...”** Christians WILL have quarrels, but the Lord wants us to quickly put them away, remembering that Christ forgave you when you were wrong.
 - The reason we have a wonderful relationship with the Lord is because He chooses not to make a big deal of my failures. He values our relationship.
 - He wants us to observe His example and do likewise.

Luke 17:3-4 When we have a dispute with someone, the Lord wants us to deal directly with that person and work it out unto forgiveness without involving anyone else. The Lord demands forgiveness no matter how many times a day someone offends you (Matthew 18:22).

- We sin against the Lord multiple times every day, and He forgives us
 - The Lord continues to supply all our needs.

Lk 7:36-47 The more you forgive others, the more they will love you.

- Your refusal to forgive will cost you the love you desire.