

# DIVINE FORGIVENESS IN MARRIAGE

## LESSON 4

***Unforgiveness is the ultimate death knell to Gods design for marriage.***

Unforgiveness is a wall that will ***always*** separate you and your spouse, a wall often built one brick at a time, and so . . .

Divine Forgiveness becomes an absolute constant requirement for every God-designed marriage. Because unforgiveness leads to *bitterness, resentment, anger, and revenge*, and these sins will destroy your marriage, and eventually your life.

Look for the signs of Unforgiveness and Divine Forgiveness in **Eph 4:29-32**:

### **Eph 4:29-32**

*<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

*<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

*<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.”*

*<sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”*

After two strong warnings in verses 29-30, verses 31-32 show a perfect contrast of unforgiveness (v.31) and divine forgiveness (v.32).

And in verse 32, we see **the key** to understanding divine forgiveness, the two words “***even as.***”



In Greek, the words “**even as**” mean “*in the same proportion, to the same degree.*” We could read the end of verse 32 as; “*forgiving one another in the same proportion as God in Christ forgave you.*”

And so, in Ephesians 4:32, we find today’s M.I.P. . .

# *M.I.P.*

Session 4 – Most Important Point

**We must forgive one another in the same proportion as God in Christ has forgiven us.**



PICTURE OF THE “EVEN AS” TRUTH OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS

### **Mat 18:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> *Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”*

<sup>22</sup> *Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”*





## MAKE THE COMPARISON . . .

Beginning in Matthew 18:23 is a picture of **YOU, GOD, and YOUR SPOUSE . . .**

### **Mat 18:23-25** (Jesus speaking)

<sup>23</sup> *Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.*

<sup>24</sup> *And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. [240 tons of gold]*

<sup>25</sup> *But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.*

<sup>26</sup> *The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*

<sup>27</sup> *Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt."*

This is a picture of **YOU** standing before God, owing a debt that can't be paid, and receiving a full release and full forgiveness that you **do not** deserve.

Now the picture changes to **You** dealing with **Your Spouse**:

### **Mat 18:28**

*"But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; [3 months wages] and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'"*

That's a drastically different response than the one the servant received from his master, who had completely forgiven him of his un-repayable debt.

Consider carefully the vast difference between how the servant with the un-repayable debt was forgiven (that's you being forgiven by God), versus the way the servant treated his fellow servant who owed him, by comparison, a relatively small debt (that's you and your spouse).



***WE MUST MAKE THE COMPARISON*** between the phenomenal, un-repayable debt we owed God and the pocket change debt our spouse owes us.

- How much have you 'wronged' God compared to how much you've been 'wronged' by your spouse?
- How much have you been forgiven by God compared to how much He's required you to forgive your spouse?

Are you like this servant, who was forgiven of an un-repayable debt, then went out and demanded payment from a person who owed him (by comparison) a very small debt?

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So, after the unforgiving servant had "laid hands" on the one who owed him a small debt (by comparison), the parable continues;

**Mat 18:29-30**

<sup>29</sup> *So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*

<sup>30</sup> *And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt."*

This sounds like some of our marriage relationships, doesn't it? Perpetually putting each other in debtors prison.

Imagine the angels, watching what Jesus Christ went through to forgive you an un-repayable debt to God, then watching you throw your spouse into debtor's prison for a relatively small (by comparison) offense.

**Mat 18:31**

*“So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.”*

The angels came to God and said; “We don’t understand, after all you’ve forgiven them of, look at how they’re treating one another.”



And so the Master has a response to the ‘unforgiving servant’ . . .

**Mat 18:32-34**

*“<sup>32</sup> Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.*

*<sup>33</sup> Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’*

*<sup>34</sup> And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.”*

**“Delivered him to the torturers,”** that sounds pretty drastic. Certainly God wouldn’t do that to us just because we refuse to forgive our spouse of some offense, would He? Read this next verse very carefully . . .

**Mat 18:35**

*“So, my heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother [spouse] his trespasses.”*

**Have you ever felt tortured by unforgiveness?  
Bitterness, Resentment, & Anger TORTURING you from  
the inside, eating you up, and destroying your life?**

Why would God allow us to feel tortured by our unforgiveness?

Think of why we have pain in our physical body. If you didn't have physical pain when there was something wrong in your body, you would die from never receiving care . . .

Sometimes God uses the same approach to bring healing into our marriages.



**Heb 12:11**

*“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

God loves you enough to allow that bitterness, resentment, and anger to torture you, until it breaks you, so you can be healed. God wants to free you and heal you from the torture of unforgiveness, and he's given you the power (by crucifying your flesh and walking in the spirit) to forgive “*even as*” (in the same proportion) God has forgiven you.

But this level of forgiveness doesn't exist in your *own nature*. It only exists in the Divine Nature. This level of forgiveness must be supernaturally imparted to you by the power of the Holy Spirit .

***F*OR FURTHER STUDY ON THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

“Living Water” – by Chuck Smith

“Under His Influence” – by Lloyd Pulley

“The Holy Spirit” – Calvary Chapel Nuevo (12 msgs)

*God can, and desires to, create in you a clean heart  
and renew a right spirit in you (Psalm 51:10-12).  
The only thing that stands in His way is your Self-Will.*

**More on this next lesson . . .**

**But Now . . .**

## *Response Time . . .*

Are you willing to crucify your Self-Will of Unforgiveness?

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Are you willing to KEEP ASKING God for the power to forgive in the  
same proportion as He has forgiven you?

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If you answered YES, please look into your spouse's eyes (right now),  
and make that commitment to them.

**Let's Pray:** *"Heavenly Father, may we experience your divine forgiveness.  
May you pour into our lives Your supernatural forgiveness for our spouse.  
May we be able to say 'forgive us as we have forgiven our spouse.' Please  
heal us of our unforgiveness today. In Jesus' Name, Amen."*



**Mat 6:9-15** (The Lord's Prayer) – verse 12 says, “*And forgive us our debts, as [in the same way as] we forgive our debtors.*”

Do you really want God to forgive you in the same way you forgive your spouse?

And in verses 14-15 (just after the Lord's Prayer), we read:

**Mat 6:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

*<sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

Jesus is not referring to our salvation, but to our on-going fellowship with God. There is a direct comparison between our forgiving others and our 'right relationship' with God.

**Mark 11:25-26**

*<sup>25</sup> And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.*

*<sup>26</sup> But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”*

Our un-forgiveness prevents us from walking in right relationship with God, and with our spouse.

**Read Mat 7:1-5** (the Plank and Speck) and replace the word “*brother*” with the word “*spouse*.”

If you will deal with the plank of unforgiveness in your own eye, most likely you won't be able to see the speck in your spouse's eye.

**Read Luke 6:36-38** (Give and it will be given to you). Notice the Primary Context is Mercy and Forgiveness