

FORGIVING OTHERS

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THERE ARE AREAS WHERE WE ALL STRUGGLE.

THERE ARE SOME ISSUES WE ALL CARRY.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE ALL QUESTION.

The biblical challenge here is not to belittle the hurts you might have gone through or still suffer because of offenses. Some of the issues you face might be much more devastating than others, and dealing with these will not be easy. However, please know that the approach to finding peace through forgiveness is the same for every person and situation.

The forgiveness of others begins with...

A TOTAL SURRENDER TO BIBLICAL FORGIVENESS

- Biblical forgiveness is the only true forgiveness (Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-13; Matthew 18:21-22).
- Biblical forgiveness is the only option.

AN OVERRIDING SENSE OF OUR FORGIVENESS

- Upon reflection, exercising forgiveness is expected and exemplified (Colossians 3:13).
- Upon reflection, exercising forgiveness should be joyful.

A SOBERING UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S AT STAKE

- Failure to forgive leads to bitterness, a desire for revenge, and eventually, the faulting of God (Ephesians 4:31-32; Hebrews 12:14-15).
- Failure to forgive harms self more than others.
- Failure to forgive contradicts the spirit of forgiveness in the heart and life.
- Failure to forgive might reveal the absence of God's forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15).

A WORK MIRRORING GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

- Forgiving others is founded in God's nature, exemplified in the person of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Spirit of God.
- Forgiving others by following Christ's example is the crux of the whole matter (Luke 6:27-38).
- Forgiving others is absolving their obligation to us concerning their sin.

What is presented here is by no means easy. There might even be some pushback you feel internally about these things. But what God asks from us is important to Him, and whether we realize it or not, forgiving is essential for us also.

Holding on to an unforgiving spirit towards others harms us more than anyone else. It also hurts the cause of Christ because we are not in heart and life positioned to be an ambassador of reconciliation to a world that needs Jesus.

What is it that keeps you from putting aside the bitterness, hurt, and anger of past experiences? It is time to know peace and to feel the burden lifted by exercising forgiveness.