

Steven Condry

Session 5 | Keeping Short Accounts

I. INTRODUCTION

“Forgiveness is a commitment by the offended to pardon graciously the repentant from moral liability and to be reconciled to that person, although not all consequences are necessarily eliminated.” Chris Brauns

This class will be drawing especially from Chris Brauns’ book, *Unpacking Forgiveness: Biblical Answers for Complex Questions and Deep Wounds*, which has really helped many people think biblically and practically about forgiveness as a form of rational hygiene.

II. SCRIPTURE FOUNDATIONS

Hebrews 12:15

Proverbs 19:11

1 Peter 4:8

Ephesians 4:26

Ephesians 4:32

III. THE REALITY OF LIVING WITH SINNERS

“You and I don’t live in Eden anymore. We live with sinners, and sinners sin. This is why daily forgiveness is essential in every relationship.” Paul Tripp

IV. SEVEN WAYS TO KEEP SHORT ACCOUNTS AND PRACTICE FORGIVENESS WISELY

1. Be Gracious

Ephesians 4:32

“Being gracious means you are willing to grant forgiveness as a gift and you will not demand that the other person pays a price.” Brauns

2. No Revenge—Not Even a Little

Romans 12:17-21

3. Listen First—and Be Prepared to Ask Forgiveness Yourself

“The humble are always the first to confess and the quickest to forgive.” C.J. Mahaney,
Humility: True Greatness

4. Take the Other Person at Their Word

1 Corinthians 13:7

5. Choose the Time and Place Carefully

6. Choose Your Words Carefully—Both in Confronting and Confessing

Practically thinking through how we ask for forgiveness

1. Acknowledge the Sin Clearly (Without Excuse)
2. Express Genuine Sorrow and Empathy
3. Ask Explicitly for Forgiveness
4. State How You Intend to Change

5. Seek Reconciliation, Not Just Relief
 6. Accept Consequences Without Self-Pity
 7. Follow Up With Consistent Fruit
- 7. Be Patient and Keep Modest Expectations**

V. THE DANGER OF BITTERNESS

“Refusing forgiveness is choosing to chain yourself to the past. To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you.” *Elisabeth Elliot, A Path Through Suffering*

“Nothing is more contrary to the nature of God than for us to hold on to injuries. For when God receives us into grace by freely forgiving us, He binds us to this condition: that we also forgive our neighbors.” *John Calvin, Institutes, 3.20.45*

Psalm 73:21–26

1. Bitterness begins when we look at life without God at the center.
2. Bitterness distorts our vision.
3. The turning point: entering the sanctuary of God.
4. Bitterness is healed by remembering God’s nearness.
5. God Himself becomes our portion, not vindication.

VI. HOW WE CULTIVATE HEARTS OF FORGIVENESS

- 1. Constantly remind yourself of what the Bible teaches about forgiveness.**

Matthew 6:12

Matthew 7:2

Ephesians 4:32

“If God had not forgiven us freely, we would be lost forever. Shall we, who have been forgiven so much, refuse to forgive little things?” Charles Spurgeon,
Sermon: Forgiveness Made Easy

2. Take a long look at Christ.

Hebrews 12:1–3

Psalms 121:1–2

3. Pray.

Philippians 4:4–7

VII. CONCLUSION

Remember keeping short accounts is not just a relational strategy—it is a Gospel culture.

“The gospel creates a culture where it is safe to confess sin quickly and to forgive quickly. That is what a cross-centered community looks like.” C.J. Mahaney



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