

**SERMON SERIES:** Relation-shift  
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**DATE:** February 17,2019



## Key Line

When people wrong me, I need to be able to forgive them.

## Introduction

In general, is it easy for you to forgive people? Why or why not?

Today we'll discuss how we need to be able to forgive people who have hurt us.

## Seek the Word

Read Luke 6:27-37, 41-42. Have people share various insights related to forgiveness from this passage. (for example: verses 35-36 imply that we are to forgive, because we have been forgiven.)

## Talk About It

When people wrong us we can either say "[I] forget you!" or "I forgive you." Have people react to that idea. Why is it so easy to want to just say "Forget you!" when people hurt us?

"Forgiveness means I allow God to be the judge, not me." How could that concept help us forgive people?

Review these different types of "love" in Scripture:

- 1) phileo: brotherly love
- 2) eros: sexual/passionate love
- 3) storge: affection
- 4) agape: unconditional love

The first three may be based on emotion/feeling, and on what the other person has done for/to us.

But agape is not based on anything the recipient has done or will do, and isn't dependent on emotion/feeling.

Based on this here's a question to consider: One barrier to forgiving people is "I don't feel like forgiving him/her." So, how can we cultivate more agape-type love in our relationships?

Re-read verses 41-42. Another barrier to my forgiving other people is that I don't realize I need to be forgiven, and that I have my own "messes." Discuss how these two verses relate to this idea.

What application do you need to make based on today's lesson? Who do you need to forgive? What steps do you need to take? How can other group members help?