

Philadelphia Church

Freedom through Forgiveness

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2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and
where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

GMO

God / Me / Others

Definition

Forgiveness- to dismiss, to release from an obligation or debt.

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.”²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

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²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

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³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Forgiveness Factor found in Christianity Today:

- ◆ 1. Detached Forgiveness- where there is a reduction in negative feelings towards the offender but you don't associate with them anymore.
- ◆ 2. Limited Forgiveness- where there is a reduction in negative feelings toward the offender but you associate with them on a limited basis.
- ◆ 3. Full Forgiveness- where there is an end to negative feelings toward the offender and you no longer have fear, anxiety or ill-will when you are around them.

Luke 6:31- 36

Do to others as you would have them do to you.³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Reasons we don't like to forgive:

1. If I forgive I'm denying the seriousness of the sin.

Proverbs 19:11

A person's wisdom yields
patience; it is to one's glory to
overlook an offense.

Nahum 1:3

The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Reasons we don't like to forgive:

2. If I forgive then I'm letting the offender off too easy.

Reasons we don't like to forgive:

3. Forgiveness places the responsibility on the victim not the perpetrator.

Matthew 5:38-41

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.

Reasons we don't like to forgive:

4. Forgiving others is
unfair to me.

Romans 9:14

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!

Luke 7:41-42

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

Reasons to forgive:

1. Forgiveness frees us to move on.

Reasons to forgive:

2. Forgiveness puts an end to
my own suffering

Quote

Our hearts are all prison walls when they hold people captive with chains of unforgiveness. - Izuakor

Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one falls short of the
grace of God and that no bitter
root grows up to cause trouble and
defile many.

Reasons to forgive:

3. His forgiveness compels us to
forgive.

Whoever opts for revenge digs
two graves. - Chinese saying

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you
will be free indeed.