

# Forgiveness

## Pt. 2 - Why Should I Forgive?

### Different reactions to hurt and pain:

- Shock
- Self-Doubt
- Withdrawal
- Cynicism
- Anger
- Revenge
- Unforgiveness

People who decide not to forgive are consumed, held captive and defined by the hurt they refuse to forgive.

### Why should I forgive?

#### God forgives.

*Lk. 23:32* Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

**Principle:** hurting people hurt people.

I am most like Jesus when I forgive.

#### God forgives me.

*Col. 3:13* Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Forgiveness is a Scriptural command: I am to forgive others as God forgave me.

*Eph. 4:32* Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

God's forgiveness is tied to my forgiveness.

*Mt. 6:14* ...For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

*Mk. 11:25* And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

*Lk. 6:37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

Forgiveness is good for me.

When I choose to forgive, my offender no longer controls me.

*1 Kgs. 2:5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruah did to me – what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. <sup>6</sup>Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace... <sup>8</sup>And remember, you have with you Shimej, son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord: ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’ <sup>9</sup>But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood. <sup>10</sup>Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.”*

*Acts 7:59 “‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he fell to his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep.”*

When I forgive, I win.