

Forgiveness

Pt. 5 - When You Need Forgiveness

Col. 3:12“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

When I need forgiveness:

1. Be honest with myself about what I did and the depth of hurt I caused.

Principle: I’ll never be honest with others if I can’t first be honest with myself.

2. Hope for the best.

1 Cor. 13:4-7“Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything without weakening.” (Amplified Bible)

3. Confess quickly.

4. Apologize.

Three components to an effective apology:

- I’m sorry.
- I was wrong.
- What can I do to make it right?

Apology principles:

- Don’t bring up what they did wrong.
- Don’t go over all the details.
- Don’t argue.
- Don’t expect them to respond with an apology and get mad if they don’t.

- An apology that includes the word “if” isn’t an apology.
- Don’t rationalize, excuse, or explain my action. Just apologize.

Principle: Excuses invalidate apologies.

5. Instead of excuses, dig deep for reasons.
6. Don’t put the focus on how the other person responds to my apology.
7. Be willing to take bold steps to regain trust.
8. Understand forgiveness is both an event and a process.
9. Include everyone.

Principle: Don’t involve other people in my offense. Involve everyone in my reconciliation.

II Cor. 2:10-11 “If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

10. Don’t allow reconciliation with the other person to overshadow my reconciliation with God.

Mt.5:23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”

Lesson: When I find restoration in a human relationship, it results in spiritual growth and inner peace.