

Forgiveness

Pt.1 - What is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness is not: pretending it didn't hurt.

Forgiveness is: giving up the right to get even.

Gen. 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children."

Forgiveness is not: minimizing the wrong.

When I minimize the wrong, I cheapen the forgiveness.

Forgiveness is: treating my offender as forgiven.

Forgiveness is not: excusing the wrong.

When I give someone an excuse, I am called an enabler.

Forgiveness is: a tender heart toward my offender.

Forgiveness is not: taking the blame for the wrong.

Forgiveness is: blessing my offender.

Rom. 12:17 "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'"

Forgiveness is not: overlooking the wrong.

Forgiveness is: praying for my offender.

Principle: When I pray for you, my heart is softened toward you.

Forgiveness is not: an emotion or a feeling.

Forgiveness is: a choice.

Forgiveness is not: immediately trusting.

Forgiveness is: letting go of the hurt.

Trust is established by character and consistency.

Forgiveness is about me; trust is about we.

Forgiveness is not: a reunion.

If the relationship is going to be restored, my offender has to do three things:

- Repent.
- Make it right.
- Rebuild trust.

Forgiveness is: me being free.

Forgiveness is not: their action.

Forgiveness is: my decision.

Mt. 6:14“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But 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.”