

2025 Fall Bible School Class #3

Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:00 PM (Break at 7:15)

A Look at some Difficult, Important Topics in the New Testament

- Does God say that I must love myself to properly love others? Draw the conclusion.
- What is the real intent of relational forgiveness?

What is the “real intent” of relational forgiveness?

Or...What is God’s purpose, according to the Bible, of pursuing relational forgiveness?

- The Big Picture - From Sin to Reconciliation
- Forgiveness is commanded
- Biblical definition of forgiveness
- Mindset or attitude commanded before we begin the process of forgiveness
- The goal of forgiveness
- The process of forgiveness
- What if forgiveness is not attained

Important resource - From *Forgiven to Forgiving* Jay E. Adams, (Institute for Nouthetic Studies)

The Big Picture - From Sin to Reconciliation

Sin	<u>Forgiveness</u>	<u>Restoration</u>	<u>Trust Building</u>	<u>Reconciliation</u>
Has	Attitude	Conversation	Effort applied	Unity Harmony
occurred	Check!	Started - Agree	Honesty & grace	Peace Change

Forgiveness done biblically will result in the process of restoration and trust building leading to

Reconciliation is God’s ultimate plan for _____.

Galatians 6:1,2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression (sin), you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

²Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The Law of Christ is to _____ and to _____.

Forgiveness is Commanded

Common reasons people don’t forgive

I don’t _____ like it. I’ve been down this _____ before and see it didn’t work. If I forgive then I have to _____ him. If I forgive him then he is off the _____. I need to get my pound of _____ if I don’t who will? He already _____.

God’s High Road Colossians 3:13c as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Biblical definition of forgiveness

Hebrews 10:15-18 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” ¹⁷then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Who-believers only v.15

What-sin, which has been paid for v. 18

When-past, present & future v. 17

Promise-I will not remember sin.....for us - with who?

I will not bring it up with the offender

I will not bring it up with another

I will not bring it up with myself

Forgiveness, done Biblically, may be the hardest thing you do but it also might be the most loving thing you do.

Luke 17:3-10 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Increase Our Faith

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷“Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? ⁸Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? ⁹Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’ ” See also Amplified Version.

Love for God is shown by _____.

Mindset or attitude commanded before we begin the process of forgiveness

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Words are important and sometimes the order is critical. Put off, put on, act!

Step #1 Put off v. 31

Step #2 Put on v.32a

Step #3 Loving action v.32b

Colossians 3:8, 12-14 v.8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. v.12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience**, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And **above all these put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Step #1 Put off v. 8

Step #2 Put on v.12

Step #3 Loving action v.14

Condition: **above all these put on love, which binds everything to together in perfect harmony v.14**

What does love do?

The highest good for the other person as defined by God no matter what the cost.

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

Step #1 Adjust your attitude - v.2, 3.

Step #2 Put on - v.9,20

Step #3 Put off - v.17,18

Attitude affects _____! Proverbs 23:7a

What's left out in this passage? _____

Whether or not we have the opportunity to pursue forgiveness this is what our attitude should be.

Galatians 5:26-6:3 Let us not become **conceited**, provoking one another, envying one another. 6 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of **gentleness**. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be **tempted**. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For **if anyone thinks he is something**, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Humility is the _____ to all ministry, on _____ people's part.

The Goal of Forgiveness

Common goals

They need to know how much they _____. They need to be taught not to do this _____

They need to be _____! It will make me _____.

God's High Road Luke 17:3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, **and if he repents**, forgive him,

Matthew 18:15 "If your brother **sins** against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have **gained your brother**. NLT "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person **listens and confesses it**, you have won that person back.¹

NOTE: the step of going to the other person must be done in humility Romans 12:3. It may be a misunderstanding, or you might be the one in the wrong! Explain then listen. Example – ignored at church.

Luke 17:3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him

Galatians 5:14-16a, For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Matthew 5:23,24 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First **be reconciled** to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

The process of forgiveness (would make a good flow chart)

1. **Attitude Check!**
2. **Go!**
3. **Confirm sin**
4. **Pursue confession**
5. **Grant forgiveness**
6. **Consider helping**

Go! Matthew 18:15 go and you alone. Note the parable in 18:10-14. See also verses above.

Ideally you will meet in the middle. Matthew 5:24.

¹ Tyndale House Publishers, [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Mt 18:15.

Or not go? 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Ephesians 4:29. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for **building up** (oikodome'), as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Confirm sin has taken place! How? Present the facts and listen. Does he see the sin?

Pursue confession - Ask the question "is this sin? If so, what should you do?"

Grant forgiveness – If he confesses lavish him with forgiveness. Ephesians 4:32 forgive could be translated "give generously".

What if forgiveness is not attained?

Did you follow the Biblical format? If so, you did your job. Leave it in God's hands.
Cf. Matt. 18:16,17

Consider helping – Be kind and tender hearted. Kind means "superior for a particular purpose or use". Useful! The forgiven one is in a vulnerable position.

See from Sin to Reconciliation above.

Recommend help if necessary.

Conclusions

Is it easy? It may be the hardest thing you do but it also might be the most loving thing you do.

Who are the 2 primary benefactors when Biblical forgiveness is attained? The one forgiven and God.

Based on this Biblical description of relational forgiveness, is it conditional or unconditional? Relational forgiveness, just as forgiveness from God, is conditional. Confess and repent.

Why is it so important to get this right? Follow the Biblical format?

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35