



Thank you for downloading the
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the **CQ Rewind FULL EDITION** at no charge, simply sign up at www.ChristianQuestions.com.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Is Forgiveness Really Necessary?

1 Thessalonians 5:15: (NASB) *See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.*



We all know that Jesus taught us to forgive. If your brother trespasses against you seven times in a day, Jesus says to forgive. Okay, while this may be difficult we can see its value and strive to live up to that standard. But, what about when someone commits a horrible crime - what about when someone guns down, in cold blood, innocent God-fearing people in church - at a Bible study? Is the same lesson of forgiveness relevant? Do the teachings of Jesus include forgiving those who are simply and purely evil in their actions?

Sin, evil and our reactive desire to NOT forgive: We have a knee-jerk reaction to get back at somebody. How should we respond? So often when faced with difficult experiences our first reaction is one of emotion. Negative emotions may be natural but we don't want our response to be based on emotions. We may need to pause and consider (and pray) for the proper response. We may need to separate our reaction from our response.


The magnitude of God's mercy: Psalms 103:6-8

 **Shooting summary, *Suspect in Custody*, CBS News**

- *(Reporter) Dylann Storm Roof was captured in Shelby, North Carolina. Witnesses say a gunman entered the Emmanuel AME Church last night during a prayer meeting. He killed the pastor and eight parishioners. Jeff, let's go over if we could, the chain of events that we know. The shooting occurred around 9pm last night but from what you've gathered this morning, the gunman actually entered the church, what about an hour before that?*
- *(Jeff) Well, that's exactly right. Investigators have been talking to some of the survivors, and we have been told they have been talking to three survivors of this mass shooting here, and what they learned was that the suspect walked into the church and there was a Bible study underway. That was about 8pm. He was among the parishioners there, and then suddenly about an hour later he started firing, according to investigators, shooting and killing three men and six women.*

This is such a tragedy on every level. Every part of this is heartbreaking. This was shooting in a church with the cold blooded murder of those who were seeking God and had done nothing to wrong their killer.

This stirs up our anger towards such evil, and we beg for God's power to come forth and do something right now: Psalms 94:1-7: This is the same situation happening now. The members of the AME Church are truly demonstrating biblical forgiveness.

 **Introduction, *Voices of Victim's Families*, CNN**

- *Law enforcement sources tell CNN Roof admitted that he shot worshipers in cold blood as they gathered for a Bible study Wednesday at the historical Emmanuel AME Church. His chilling motive? One source tells CNN that the 21-year old wanted to start a race war. Continuing to gather evidence against Roof, investigators have traced the 45-caliber handgun he was carrying to the shootings, and they say that Roof bought it around his 21st birthday in April. The gun holds thirteen rounds and witnesses to the shootings said Roof reloaded a number of times.*

We want God's wrath to punish evil - and we should: Deuteronomy 32:35: We need to remember that vengeance is God's. We cannot handle vengeance. It gets overblown when we try to handle it. God has perfect wisdom, love, justice and power that can handle it perfectly. But we should also see God's wrath from the standpoint of His patience. God is not about reacting with pointed consequences; rather, He is about rewarding with proper consequences!

When given a voice in the face of evil, whose voice do we choose?

Isaiah 42:1-4: Jesus carried out God's plan of justice - along with mercy and understanding - all in due time! This is not the time for God to exact justice, but the time is coming. When it comes, everything will be put in order. God does not forget; He puts things in proper order.

Human beings have both a need to forgive and to be forgiven.

Regardless of the answer to the green question above, our attitude should NEVER be one of joy in anyone's suffering: Proverbs 24:17-19: Do we have sympathy for our enemies like Jesus did, or does that allow us to be treated like a doormat? How do we handle this?



There are key New Testament words meaning forgiveness. Here is one of them:

Forgive: Strongs #863; to send forth, away

This word <863> is very broadly used. It covers godly and human forgiveness and is the word that most clearly reflects our forgiveness of one another.

Matthew 18:21: (NRSV) *Then Peter came and said to him, Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive<863>? As many as seven times? (Basically Jesus answers, “What are you counting for?”)*

Regarding our forgiveness to each other, is repentance required from someone who sins against us?

YES! Here is a text that shows the part repentance should play: Luke 17:3-4: (KJV) *³Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive <863> him. ⁴And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive <863> him.*

NO! Here is a text that says we should love unconditionally - regardless of repentance on the part of the one who offended us: Luke 6:27-31

Why are there two different approaches? People are to be treated differently depending on what you would expect them to know.

	<u>Luke 17:3-4</u>	<u>Luke 6:27-31</u>
Is repentance part of the forgiveness?	YES!	NO!
Who are you forgiving?	Your brother in Christ	Your enemies/ those of the world
What does this show?	Communication because there is a relationship between you	Persecution from someone with whom you do not have a relationship
What are you to do?	Forgive him	Love him, bless him and be humble

Those “within” should know better. Again, forgiveness means to send the situation away from you personally. If someone you know to be a fellow Christian committed a wrong and does not repent, that creates a great rift. You can have a forgiving attitude but something still needs to be dealt with.



Remarkable forgiveness, Interview With Christians About Christianity, CNN

- *(Reporter) I think one of the most remarkable events of this last week is the families of the victims telling this horrific person, whose name I will only use sparingly, “I forgive you.” I don’t know that I would have the strength to say that. Is this something particular to the AME Church? Is this particular to black churches? Is it Christianity in general?*
- *First of all, I think the whole world was moved by that.*

So, the provocation to forgive can come from two places:

1. Luke 17:3-4: Someone’s recognition for their need of forgiveness - namely a brother in Christ who should know better, and
2. Luke 6:27-31: From our own desire to lift up those who may have hurt us regarding those still in the darkness of the world for their own good.

To forgive is to make someone’s sin against us lose its relevance in our life. That is what was displayed in South Carolina.

Forgiveness releases us from damaging emotions: Proverbs 19:11: It takes work to be slow to anger! You get the strength because you realize your own need for forgiveness from God through Christ. This is the basic principle of Christianity, which makes it such a powerful force when properly applied.



Applying biblical principles, the idea of forgiveness for people like this is to put the circumstance away from you. Let whatever the hurt is not be a driver in your life anymore. The goal is to bring it before God through Jesus and ask for help to get beyond it to be able to live your life to love them - even from a distance - and to move forward without this thing driving you. That is what forgiveness is. Whether anything comes back from them is not relevant. The forgiveness is to release YOU from the results of what they have done to you.

 **Voices 2, Voices of Victim's Families, CNN**

- *It hurts me. You hurt all the people, but God forgives you. I forgive you.*
- *We are the family that love built. We have no room for hating, so we have to forgive.*
- *I forgive you. You took something very precious from me. I will never talk to her ever again. I will never hold her again, but I forgive you and have mercy on your soul.*

That is absolutely remarkable! How are they able to rise to this level? **We must realize that in order to be forgiven - in order for us to have our sins that we commit not be relevant to God - we must make the sins against us by others not relevant to us:**

Matthew 6:9-15: (NRSV) ⁹Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And **forgive <863>** us our debts, as we also have **forgiven <863>** our debtors. ¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. ¹⁴For if you **forgive <863>** others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also **forgive <863>** you; ¹⁵but if you do not **forgive <863>** others, neither will your Father **forgive <863>** your trespasses.

Put the experience away from you. Make it not relevant to your life and God can do the same to us.

Forgive us our debts - that which we owe; not money, but our sins and transgressions committed that take us out of balance with God. We want forgiveness applied to us as we apply it to others. We can find the strength to forgive by realizing our need to be forgiven. When we are forgiven by God, do we undergo just an emotional change or an actual change? It is much easier to forgive others when we understand our need for forgiveness from God. We must realize just what the sacrifice of Jesus means to us. The forgiveness we receive from that sacrifice is MUCH MORE than the forgiveness that we have been talking about.

The following is a second word for forgiveness: **Forgiveness: Strongs #859; freedom, pardon**

This word **<859>** is never used in connection with us forgiving one another. It is only related to the pardon granted through Jesus' sacrifice. Our forgiveness of one another "sends the sin away" from us; it does not forgive the other person of their sin. Jesus removed our sin through Adam to give us an opportunity in the future for eternal life.

Ephesians 1:7: (KJV) *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness <859>** of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

God's forgiveness: Hebrews 9:22: (KJV) *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no **remission <859>**.* (pardon)

God's forgiveness is in place already because of the sacrifice of Jesus, but we do not yet see the full result. The animal sacrifices in the Old Testament pointed to - were a picture of - the sacrifice of Jesus. The shedding of blood was necessary to take away - remove - sins. Jesus was that lamb of sacrifice to satisfy justice. This is a pardon. All we are asked to do is put sins away from us so they no longer affect us. **God, through Jesus, satisfied justice - a life for a life - and therefore provided true forgiveness.** Luke 4:16-18: The release here is not just an opening of the prison door - it is a full pardon - an opportunity to go on and live without the previous consequences of sin.

FORGIVENESS IN ACTION: Our forgiveness to another causes a sin to become irrelevant. Jesus' sacrifice ERASES sin! While most of us will never have the horrible experience of those that the AME Church had, and therefore never have that most dramatic expression of forgiveness, we can all certainly have experiences in which great faith is required to be able to forgive. Our forgiveness does not release the person from consequences. Our forgiveness releases the action from ourselves; not from justice or consequences.

This next New Testament account has several layers of forgiveness beginning with Stephen's stoning: Acts 7:58-60: The last uttered prayer of Stephen was one asking



forgiveness for his murderers. Acts 8:1-3: Saul, who later became the Apostle Paul, oversaw the stoning of Stephen. Acts 9:10-19: And so, the forgiveness that Stephen prayed for was directly answered in Saul - God answered his prayer and forgave Saul, but it was not with any lack of testing that Saul - now Paul - would need to prove his faith. Ananias displayed the faith to forgive and acted accordingly. Think about it - Saul was a persecutor of Christians. He became a leader of Christians, and then he personally suffered the wrath of his previous allies! Romans 12:14-17: Could these words have been inspired by Stephen's last prayer and by the faithfulness of Ananias?

How can we become better forgivers?

Realize that forgiveness releases us from damaging emotions - it is good for your health!

Proverbs 14:29 Proverbs 25:23

Here is the third word for forgiveness:

Forgive: Strongs #630; to free, relieve, release, dismiss, let die, pardon, divorce

This word <630> is broadly used but rarely translated forgive. It is generally used to describe divorce, which means to send someone away, so the principle of forgiveness and divorce has a thread of similarity.

Matthew 27:17: (KJV) *Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, whom will ye that I **release** <630> unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus, which is called Christ?*

Luke 6:37: (KJV) *Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: **forgive** <630>, and ye shall be **forgiven** <630>:*

Determine to truly walk away from the wrong done to us - only then we can be free!

Here is the fourth word for forgiveness:

Forgiving: Strongs #5483; favor

This word <5483> is broadly used in the sense of having a big heart - not focused on taking away sin.

Philippians 1:29: (KJV) *For unto you it is **given** <5483> in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

Colossians 3:13: (KJV) *Forbearing one another, and **forgiving** <5483> one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ **forgave** <5483> you, so also do ye.*

Give one another the benefit of the doubt whenever possible! **Looking unto Jesus: Isaiah 53:3-7** Remember that what Jesus did here is vastly different than what we can do towards each other. If he could bear our sins and pardon us, surely we can decide to not allow another's sinful actions to control our lives!

A great example of learning to live forgiven: Luke 19:1-10:

- Live forgiven by striving to see that which is true and honest.
- Live forgiven by immediately receiving that which is true and honest into your life with joy.
- Live forgiven by being a giver and by thoroughly and righteously restoring all wrongs done.
- Live forgiven by not looking back to your previous sinful ways.

Christian faith says: You have been forgiven. You have been redeemed. Now go and act accordingly.

Lessons from Ephesians 4:25-32:

- Live forgiven by living and speaking only that which is true.
- Live forgiven by living, acting and responding in a Christ-like fashion.
- Live forgiven by ALWAYS being a building up influence in all areas of your life.
- Live forgiven by choosing to live better, not bitter.
- Live forgiven by being gracious and forgiving - that's what Jesus did!

Forgiveness transforms your life! Choose to live a God-honoring life.

*So, is forgiveness really necessary?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*