



Does God Really Forgive Me?

Psalm 103:8: (NASB) *The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.*



We all do wrong. We all hurt other people. Sometimes the hurt we deliver is the result of oversight, ignorance or immaturity, or careless words and actions or sloppy and selfish thinking. We hurt someone, but we don't really mean it. Sometimes the hurt we deliver is a result of anger or vengeance or jealousy and we absolutely mean to create havoc and turmoil. Either way we do hurt others and we therefore do need forgiveness. So how do we receive forgiveness from others and especially from God? What do we have to do or say or think for forgiveness to take hold? How can we truly know that we are forgiven? Is forgiveness really worth the effort?



"Everyone Makes Mistakes," Big Bird, Sesame Street

Captain Vegetable, it's really not that bad! Listen!
I've a special secret children ought to know
It's about the little mistakes you make as you begin to grow
If you make a mistake you shouldn't start to cry
Mistakes are not so bad and here is why
Everyone makes mistakes
Yes, they do
Your sister, and your brother, and your dad and mother too
Big people, small people
Matter of fact, all people
Everyone makes mistakes
So, why can't you?



Psalm's 103:8
The LORD is
compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding
in lovingkindness.



God by nature is compassionate, patient and loving.



We who are *in the position to forgive* must **STRIVE** for compassion, patience and love.



We who are *in the position to receive forgiveness* must **TRUST** in compassion, patience and love.

There is a struggle happening on both sides of an issue.

The "growing up in forgiveness process" means we need to learn to trust in the "spiritual comfort food" of God's compassion, patience and love. HIS compassion, HIS patience and HIS love actually applies in our lives. We have to grow into forgiveness.



There are four key New Testament words regarding forgiveness:

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

This word is broadly used but rarely actually translated as *forgive*.

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>**:*

Forgiving: Strongs #5483 - favor

Broadly used in the sense of "having a big heart," not used to describe the taking away of 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;*

Forgiveness: Strongs #859 - freedom, pardon

This word is never used in connection with us forgiving one another. It is only related to the pardon granted through Jesus' sacrifice.

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

Forgive: Strongs #863 - to send forth, away

This word is very broadly used and covers both Godly and human forgiveness - it is this 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?*

The maturing process of forgiveness:

The forgiver must **STRIVE** and the forgiven must **TRUST**.

Forgiving is a process.

Is there a difference between how God forgives and how we forgive?



Psalm 103:9

*He will not always strive with us,
nor will He keep His anger forever.*



God by nature allows us to **GRAPPLE** with Him, to struggle with and against His principles but will come to a point of firmly ending the struggle with righteousness and peace for greater lessons.



We who are *in the position to forgive* must **ACCEPT** that in this time of grappling between sin and righteousness, WE must extend mercy, knowing that God will soon end the struggle.



We who are *in the position to receive forgiveness* must **GRAPPLE** to accept forgiveness we feel we do not deserve, because we understand that it is a godly practice and picture of God's eventual outcome.

For people who have a conscience, when they have done wrong to someone else, it has the ability to make them feel so low. In this case, the growth - the maturity - comes through grappling with the fact they really messed up. But God understands this and His plan has an end to all of this. It is a godly principle to accept forgiveness when it is offered.



Can you forgive someone you do not trust? There are two degrees of forgiveness. **Please see more on this in the Bonus Material, comparing the two different situations in [Luke 17:3-4](#) and [Luke 6:27-31](#) based on the type of relationship between the parties.** The first type of response is between two people with a close, personal relationship, like your own family, the church brotherhood or a close friend. If they hurt you, there is an expectation they will be repentant and you forgive them.

There is a second response appropriate for others, including an enemy. We are to love them and bless them anyway, even though we do not trust them and they are not repentant for what they have done. How? By understanding what forgiving really is - sending the situation away from you personally. We cannot pardon one another but we can forgive one another.

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)

How is it that God can remove our sins to literally pardon us? God is not arbitrary; He has a specific, intentional plan including arrangements for the pardoning process.



God through Jesus satisfied justice - a life (Jesus) for a life (Adam). This provided true forgiveness:

Luke 4:16-21: (NASB) ¹⁶*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.* ¹⁷*And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. And he opened the book and found the place where it was written:* ¹⁸*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **release <859>** to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed...*

The release here is not just an *opening* of the prison door of sin and death. It is a *full, no strings attached pardon* - an opportunity to go on and live without the previous consequences of sin. Jesus satisfied the "justice" requirement of God.

When forgiven by God, do we undergo just an emotional change or actual change? Being forgiven and forgiving ought not to be like a New Year's Resolution. Forgiveness is to release the experience from affecting your life.

God is not arbitrary in His forgiveness, so neither should we be.



A comment from the CQ App: This sounds like good parenting on God's part!

God's combination of strength, justice, compassion, love and kindness is a great role model for any parent.

Our forgiving attitude towards others can influence God's forgiveness towards us. This puts the responsibility of forgiveness on our own shoulders.

 Mark's introduction, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*, Fox 25 Morning News, Boston

- (Reporter) *In a split second, your life can change forever. Maybe it's happened to you, maybe it hasn't. It has happened to Mark Crownin.*
- (Mark) *I remember driving a motorcycle. I remember headlights coming at me and not having a chance to react and get out of the way quick enough, and I just remember blood pouring out of me and saying "My leg! My Leg!"*
- (Reporter) *The day after being struck by a drunk driver who was traveling the wrong way on a highway, Mark woke up on a hospital bed.*
- (Mark) *I kept tapping down at my leg. I didn't know if it was gone or not. I couldn't speak because I had a tube in me, and then my wife finally let me know that my leg was gone.*

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.

Forgive us our debts - that which we owe - not money, but our sins and transgressions committed that take us out of balance with God and each other. This is applied to us as we apply it to others. Our responsibility to forgive has a bearing on God forgiving us.

Matthew 18:21-22: (NASB) ²¹Then Peter came and said to him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? ²²Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

The maturing process of forgiveness:

The forgiver must **ACCEPT** and the forgiven must **GRAPPLE**.

Are there sins God just will not forgive?



Psalms 103:10

*He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*



God by nature is just and provides many ways of easing the pain of that justice. The Law provided sacrifices as offerings for sin for Israel. Christianity provides Christ, prayer and supplication as an offering for sin on our behalf.



We who are *in the position to forgive* must **REALIZE** that as God is merciful in His justice, so we must also be merciful when we apply justice.



We who are *in the position to be forgiven* must **LEARN** that receiving the merciful justice of forgiveness is an opportunity to make our lives right again.



Mark's courtroom statement, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*, Fox 25 Morning News, Boston

- *(Mark in courtroom) I know you're sorry. I really do. I wish we could turn that night back, but we can't. I lost my leg, my family lost a lot, and I know that your family - a good family - lost a lot, too. What I do in my life is going to reflect on my three small children, so I have forgiveness for you. I do hope the best for you. I wish there was something we could do. I hope in the future we can get together and maybe talk to young kids about drunk driving.*
- *(Mark talking to reporter) People talk, "I could never, I could never..." Until you are in the situation, you don't know what you can or what you can't do. It made it easier for me knowing that she was sorry. It made it a heck of a lot easier to forgive. As long as I can still be here for my kids to see them walk down the aisle and do everything - I will still be able to walk down the aisle. I won't be as active with them, but I'm still going to be there and see it anyway. That's huge for me. If this was my son or daughter that she might have hit, I might have a whole different attitude. I don't know...I don't know how I would react.*



A caller suggests Matthew 18:23-35: **The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.** God forgives on the basis of how we forgive others. It is conditional. My challenge is where will I execute justice? When am I just in being forgiving?

Sometimes we have an experience that makes it difficult for us to be able to manage forgiveness because justice must be done. If we are the ones forgiving, we are sending the experience away from us and putting it into the hands of those who would execute justice.

The Pharisees had just accused Jesus of casting out demons by the prince of demons:

Matthew 12:31-32: (NASB) ³¹Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be **forgiven <863>** people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be **forgiven <863>**. ³²Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be **forgiven <863>** him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be **forgiven <863>** him, either in this age or in the age to come.

Mark 3:29: (Wilson's Diaglott) *...not has forgiveness to the age, but liable is of age-lasting judgment.*

In the age to come, such sins will have to be personally rectified. God does not remove the sin from them; they will have to manage that specific type of sin.



Additional commentary: The Pharisees are highlighted as a special example - although not begotten by the Holy Spirit, they were of the chosen people, they were very learned in the Law and the prophecies about Messiah, and most importantly, they actually had Jesus right in front of them - they had direct witnesses of the Holy Spirit at work through his ministry and miracles. Their own pride blinded them from admitting the obvious. They not only ignored the power of the Spirit as Jesus used it, but they further accused the power of God as being the power of Satan. In their enlightened state, this was not forgivable.

What does that mean? It means this sin would be carried by them into the Judgment Day and that they would have to earn God's favor in relation to this rather than have it to any degree be removed from them because of the imperfection of the present world. They will carry the FULL WEIGHT of this sin into judgment. While this is not forgivable, it is resolvable, and we are not told specifically what will be needed for them to work their way back in the kingdom. We can assume somehow they will need to demonstrate to God they are sorry and admit they were being evil for their own gain.

It is impossible for someone who is not a Christian to have this eternal judgment against them here and now:

1 Peter 4:17: (NASB) *For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God...*

Those who are true followers of Christ have an added liability they must manage.

An even more serious consequence is to the true Christian if they commit that kind of sin:

Hebrews 6:4-6: (NASB) *For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put him to open shame.*

It is impossible to renew them again to repentance - the word impossible here does not mean "very difficult." It is the same word the book of Hebrews uses to tell us it is impossible for God to lie. It is also the same word used to say it is impossible to please God without faith.

There are MANY qualifications here listed for committing an unforgivable sin:

- Enlightenment and experience;
- The Holy Spirit dwelling in you;
- Understanding of God's word - your eyes have been opened in a special way; and
- Abandoning ALL of these things = consciously rejecting Jesus' ransom on your behalf.

For such a sin to occur to a consecrated, footstep follower of Jesus, they would have to clearly deny the power of the Spirit, deny the blessings of God and deny the ransom of Jesus. We would think it would be a rare case where someone would come into significant knowledge of God's truth and intentionally and freely turn their back on it.



This text prepares us for NEVER having to worry about an unforgivable sin!
Ephesians 4:26-32: (NASB) ²⁶Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. ²⁹Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

This is how we should live our life. We must focus on maturing into a forgiving and forgiven person.

The maturing process of forgiveness: The forgiver must **REALIZE** and the forgiven must **LEARN**.

"Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future." - Louis B. Smedes

The maturing process of forgiveness:

- The forgiver must **STRIVE** (with their own emotions to find compassion) and the forgiven must **TRUST** (trust in the compassion and love shown).
- The forgiver must **ACCEPT** (that the world is imperfect right now and offenses happen) and the forgiven must **GRAPPLE** (with being the evidence of those offenses).
- The forgiver must **REALIZE** (that justice can have mercy) and the forgiven must **LEARN** (that this mercy translates into opportunity to begin anew).

Where does repentance fit into this picture?



God by nature is mighty, and in His immeasurable might, we find a deep and provable love for those who would be in harmony with Him.



We who are in the position to forgive must **DETERMINE** to reflect His might and His love in our dealing with His creation.



We who are in the position to be forgiven must **ACCEPT** that receiving the loving kindness of forgiveness is a God-honoring experience - even when you feel you are not worthy!



Psalms 103:11

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is His lovingkindness

toward those who fear Him.



Kylie's introduction, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*, Fox 25 Morning News, Boston

- (Reporter) *Kylie Harriet's life changed just as quickly.*
- (Kylie) *I was on the porch with my sister and then you could hear (pop, pop) - it sounded like firecrackers, but it wasn't the Fourth of July.*
- (Reporter) *The gunshots that Kylie heard were the results of an argument in a first floor apartment. A stray bullet hit the then three-year old. Her mother, Tanya, recalls that night at the hospital.*
- (Mother) *She was lying in a trauma room. I looked at the x-ray; I couldn't really read it, but I could see a bullet. It had severed her spinal cord 99.7%.*
- (Reporter) *That shot fired by this man left Kylie paralyzed from the chest down.*

There are different shades of meaning to the word *repentance* captured in three primary words in the New Testament:

Repent: Strongs #3338, *metamelomai*, to care afterwards, i.e. regret

Repent: Strongs #3340, *metanoeo*, to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction)

(compunction: uneasiness of mind due to feelings of remorse or guilt; twinge of conscience)

Repentance: Strongs #3341, *metanoia*, compunction (for guilt, including reformation); by implication reversal (of [another's] decision) (similar to #3340)

The Cyclopedia of Biblical Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature by John McClintock and James Strong explains the distinction often given between these:

#3338 refers to an emotional change	#3340 to a change of choice
#3338 has reference to particulars	#3340 to the entire life
#3338 signifies nothing but regret, even amounting to remorse	#3340 that reversal of moral purpose known as repentance
<p>#3340 is the fuller and nobler term, expressive of moral action and issues. It is indicated not only by its derivation, but by the greater frequency of its use and by the fact it is often used in the imperative.</p>	

Examples of the "regret" part of *repent* <3338>:

Matthew 27:3: *Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself <3338>, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.*

Regret is good, but it is not complete. If you stop at "regret," you are not really repenting.



Matthew 21:28-29: (NRSV) ²⁸*What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, Son, go and work in the vineyard today. ²⁹He answered, I will not; but later he **changed his mind <3338>** and went.*

Example of <3340>:

Acts 17:30-31: (NRSV) ³⁰*While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now He commands all people everywhere to **repent <3340>**, ³¹because He has fixed a day on which He will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this He has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*

Example of <3341>:

Acts 5:31: (KJV) *Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give **repentance <3341>** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

Are you willing to have forgiveness (remove the issue from dominating your life) without repentance?

The maturing process of forgiveness:

The forgiver must **DETERMINE** and the forgiven must **ACCEPT** the loving-kindness and forgiveness because it is God-honoring.

Forgiveness is hard because it is so personal, especially if someone is not specifically asking for your forgiveness. But this is God's own character.

How does the sacrifice of Jesus help us to forgive in the smaller areas of life?



Psalms 103:12

As far as the east is from the west,

so far has He removed our transgressions from us.



God by nature always had the intention and plan for sin and transgression to run their course and has granted us an understanding of this plan in the offering of His son as our Ransom sacrifice.



We who are *in the position to forgive* must **INTERNALIZE** the power of Jesus' ransom as we deal with the imperfections of one another.



We who are *in the position to be forgiven* must **APPLY** the grace of Jesus' ransom with deep personal humility. This means using the big picture of forgiveness and applying it to the smaller matters of life.



Back to basics!

1 Peter 2:21-24: (NASB) ²¹For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps, ²²who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; ²³and while being reviled, he did not revile in return; while suffering, he uttered no threats, but kept entrusting himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴and he himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by his wounds you were healed.

Jesus rose above the emotion, pain and turmoil of the experience. What was his example?

- To love without the thought of it being returned. This is selfless and rises above the immediate feeling of the circumstance.
- To give without reciprocation.
- To suffer without retaliation. As traumatic as the experience might be, it no longer has an effect on you and it does not dominate your every day. That is a privileged life that comes through hard experiences.
- To rely entirely on the Righteous Judge, our Heavenly Father. Jesus knew everything would work out justly and mercifully in the end, so he was able to go through the experiences joyfully.

Our ability to forgive one another really depends on how we see one another. Jesus saw all of the world as God's lost children who needed redemption.

 **Kylie's courtroom statement, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*, Fox 25 Morning News, Boston**

- (Reporter) *But like Mark, she found it in her heart to forgive, and she did it the night Kylie was shot.*
- (Mother) *I made that decision before I even reached the hospital. I don't know why but I did. I believed that she would live and not die if I forgave; if we forgave.*
- (Reporter) *Kylie's impact statement would be a reflection of that decision.*
- (Kylie) *I have forgiven what you've done to me. Even though it was wrong, you are still forgiven.*
- (Mother) *The courtroom saying - that was a heavy day that day.*
- (Kylie) *He probably thought that I'd be really angry and me and my family would be angry at him. I guess he was really shocked, because he probably thought, Oh, I'll just do the time in prison and then I'll get out. He probably took that to heart and said, it's like I'm being given another chance.*

This little girl followed her mother's example of forgiveness. It released them from the anger and hopefully had an influence on the guilty party.

Philippians 2:2-8: (NASB) ²make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. How we see one another really depends on how we see ourselves and Christ in ourselves! ⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.



Philippians 1:21: (NASB) *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Remember, to forgive is to make someone's sin against us lose its relevance in our life! The event still happened and the results of the event are still intact, but the relevance of the act AGAINST us has been diminished!

The maturing process of forgiveness: The forgiver must **INTERNALIZE** and the forgiven must **APPLY**.



A caller from California shares a definition of forgiveness - to give as you did before. Question: Is it appropriate to forgive the transgressor if they do not ask for your forgiveness?

If they have done something terrible to you or your family, why forgive them, especially if they do not ask for it? If you hold onto the anger and hurt, it will bring you down. That is the key to the answer. Forgiving them does not release them from their consequence. It releases you from the consequence of what they did to you. Do you want to live captive or free? Forgiveness is freedom.

What are the results of God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of each other?



Psalm 103: 13, 14

Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

*For He Himself knows our frames;
He is mindful that we are but dust.*

Here God shows us the principle of fatherhood.



God by nature truly does know our weaknesses and frailty, and the result of His knowledge of us is a fatherly embrace for any who seek it.



We who are *in the position to forgive* must **PRACTICE** that family-based approach to those who have wronged us as we accept that we as well as they are all faulty.



We who are *in the position to be forgiven* must **EMBRACE** the embrace of forgiveness. We must "hug back" those reaching out to us.

God through Jesus satisfied justice - a life (Jesus) for a life (Adam). This provided true forgiveness:

Luke 4:16-18: (NASB) ¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. And he opened the book and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, Because he anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **release <859>** to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed...

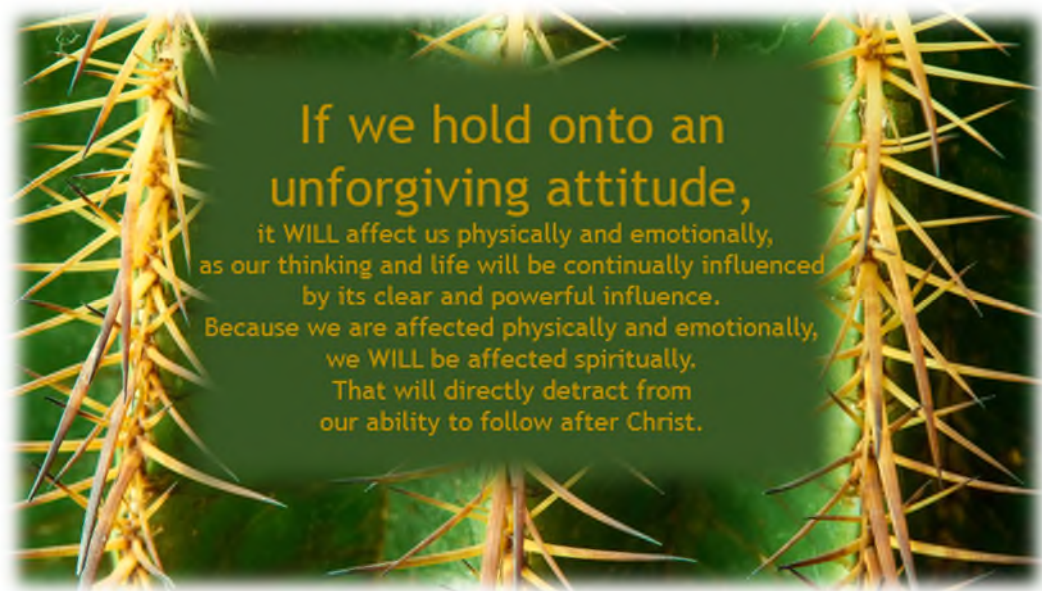


God, through Jesus' satisfaction of justice - a life for a life - provided true forgiveness.

The release here is not just an opening of the prison door of sin and death. It is a *full pardon* from Adamic sin - an opportunity to go on and live without the previous consequences of sin. To forgive is to make someone's sin against us lose its relevance in our life! **Forgiveness = Freedom!**



A CQ Team Member suggests: I heard an expression this week that I thought was really appropriate for this program: "When someone hands you a cactus, it doesn't mean you have to sit on it." In other words, people are going to hurt you intentionally or unintentionally but I have to control how I react. If I forgive them, I can move on. There may be ten cacti sitting in my house, but they can be there without hurting me. And if I look closely enough, there might be a flower on one of them - where I can see some blessing or character growth through that experience. It is easier said than done because it is about emotions that are hard to redirect, but this is the visual I'm going to use when I get hurt. AND I need to make sure I'm not handing out cacti to the people around me!



 Kylie's mom - release it, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*, Fox 25 Morning News, Boston

- (Mother) *It transformed our lives in one millisecond and I wanted him to realize that this forgiveness that you received - take it even one step further and forgive yourself so that you can be effective in telling this story to others and it will change their lives because it's like a domino effect. The power of forgiveness is: When you release the un-forgiveness, the healing begins.*

Forgiving people does not release them from their consequences.

Forgiveness releases us from damaging emotions:

Proverbs 14:29: (KJV) *He that is slow to anger is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*



Proverbs 25:23: (KJV) *The north wind bringeth forth rain: So doth a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.*

Ecclesiastes 7:9: (KJV) *Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*

Proverbs 19:11: (KJV) *The discretion of a man maketh him slow to anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*



App question: Even if one forgives the wrongdoer, should he or she tell them they are forgiven if they didn't ask for it, since the Christian has to ask God for forgiveness?

We think telling them even if they did not ask for that forgiveness is appropriate.

Forgiveness transforms us from being mere sinful men to being sons of God:

Matthew 5:43-45: (NASB) ⁴³You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Forgiveness is a lynchpin of the entire plan of God:

Jeremiah 31:31-34: (NASB) ³¹Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD...I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

God will allow sin to run its course with the experience of wronging each other and learning the principles of forgiveness.

The maturing process of forgiveness:

The forgiver must **PRACTICE** and the forgiven must **EMBRACE**.

We want to live by God's principles. Forgiveness is a powerful tool to give us a life fulfilled in graciousness, mercy and justice by God's grace.

**So, does God really forgive me?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**

**And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!**





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.

A text that shows we are supposed to love unconditionally:

Luke 6:27-31: (NRSV) ²⁷But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

So, what is the difference?

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 still should resolve the issue between you.

God’s forgiveness of us - the cost and the result:

Isaiah 53:3-6: (NASB) ³He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem him. ⁴Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried; yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed. ⁶All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him.