

Sharing Grace

Matthew 6:14-15 (NASB) “if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

1 Corinthians 13:5b (NLT) “Love doesn’t keep a record of wrongs that others do.”

FORGIVENESS QUIZ

A person should not be forgiven until he asks for it.	T F
Forgiving includes minimizing the offense & the pain caused.	T F
Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reuniting a relationship.	T F
You haven’t really forgiven until you’ve forgotten the offense.	T F
When I see someone hurt, it is my duty to forgive the offender.	T F



I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

1. It isn’t **CONDITIONAL**.
2. It isn’t the **MINIMIZING** seriousness of the offense.
3. It isn’t **RESUMING** a relationship without changes.
4. It isn’t **FORGETTING** what happened.
5. It isn’t my **RIGHT** when I wasn’t the one who was hurt.

II. What is Genuine Forgiveness?

1. It is a legal **TRANSACTION**.

Luke 23:34; John 19:30 (HCSB) “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” ... “It is finished!”

2. It is **RELINQUISHING** my right to get even.

Romans 12:19 (NASB) “Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.”

Hebrews 12:15 (Ph) “Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others.”

3. It is **RESPONDING** to evil with good.

Luke 6:27-28 (NIV) “... Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.”

4. It is **REPEATING** the process as long as necessary.

Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT) “Peter asked, “‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No.’ Jesus replied, ‘seventy times seven.’”

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III. SECRET OF FORGIVENESS:

Remember how much God has **FORGIVEN** you.

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) "Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT) "You were dead because of your sins ... Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us."

Remember forgiveness prevents **BITTERNESS**.

Hebrews 12:15 (Ph) "Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others."

Remember God **EXPECTS** you to forgive.

Matthew 6:15 (NIV)"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Application:

Take time this week to evaluate your concept of forgiveness. Do you keep a record of wrongs that have been done to you? Do you forgive as God has forgiven you?

Spend time each day reflecting on the forgiveness that God has granted you. Express your gratitude for his grace and forgiveness.

If God reveals someone whom you have not forgiven then confess the sin of unforgiveness, take it to the Lord, forgive them and put it in the hands of God.

Share your struggles with your spiritual partner and/or your support group and ask for their prayer as you forgive and let go of the offense.

Memorize: Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

