

Forgiveness

I. Introduction.

- A. How many here have sinned...have been sinned against...will sin...will be sinned against...have offended someone close...will offend someone close?
- B. "To err is human, to forgive is _____."
- C. Why do many think forgiveness is of God?
- D. Does forgiveness cost anything?
- E. Forgiveness Quotes.

II. Scripture.

- A. Word Study Summary: Forgive, n, ing, ness, ave, Pardon, ed; Total-139, OT-71, NT-68. 6 OT Words used; 4 NT Words used.
- B. Specific OT and NT Words
 - 1. Definition. "To excuse for a fault or offense; to renounce resentment against; to absolve from payment of" (American Heritage Dictionary).
 - a. **Forgive** (T-56, OT-28, NT-28).
 - b. **Forgiven** (T-42, OT-18, NT-24).
 - c. **Forgave** (T-9, OT-1, NT-8).
 - d. **Forgiveness** (T-7, OT-1, NT-6).
 - e. **Forgiving** (T-4, OT-2, NT-2).
 - f. **Forgiveth** (T-2, OT-1, NT-1).
 - g. **Pardon** (T-18, OT-18, NT-0).
 - h. **Pardoned** (T-3, OT-3, NT-0).
 - 2. Hebrew (OT).
 - a. Kaphar (kaw-far): cancel, cleanse, be merciful, reconcile...
 - b. Nasa or nacah (naw-saw): lift or raise, accept, advance or further, carry, fetch, give, help, hold up, regard, respect, spare, bear continuously...
 - c. Calach (saw-lakh): forgive, pardon, spare...
 - d. Callach (sal-lawkh): placable, ready to forgive...
 - e. Celiychah (sel-ee-khaw): pardon, forgiveness...
 - f. Ratsah (raw-tsaw): to be pleased with, to be favorable to, to accept favorably...
 - 3. Greek (NT).
 - a. Apoluo (ap-ol-oo-o): to free fully, relieve, dismiss, release, let die, let go, set at liberty...
 - b. Aphesis (af-es-is): remission, deliverance, liberty, release from bondage or imprisonment (i.e., Gov.)...
 - c. Aphiemi (af-ee-ay-me): leave, forsake, abandon, let go or alone, permit, allow, cry, yield up...
 - d. Charizomai (khar-id-zom-ahee): freely give, rescue, deliver, to show oneself gracious, kind, benevolent, restore, to preserve someone in peril (Grace)...

III. Verse Study / Questions.

- A. "**How often shall...I forgive him**" and should I keep forgiving him even if he keeps on sinning against me (cf. **Mat. 18:21-35; Luk. 17:3-5**)?
- B. **Mar. 11:22-26**—" 22-**And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23-For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24-Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25-And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26-But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**"
1. What is the shield to all attacks?
 2. How can you get power to forgive?
 3. Can you still have a good relationship with God if you do not forgive someone?
- C. **Mat. 5:23-25a**—"23-**Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24-Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. 25-Agree with thine adversary quickly...**"
1. What about my anger or his anger?
 2. Do I still have to forgive him if he is angry with me?
 3. When shall I forgive him?
 4. Isn't that just his problem?
 5. What gifts and sacrifices does God want most?
- D. **Mat. 6:12, 14-15**—"12-**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 14-For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15-But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**"
1. Is our forgiveness of others linked to God's forgiveness of us (cf. **Luk. 6:36-38; 2Co. 2:10**)?
 2. Do you pray for God to forgive you as you forgive others?
- E. **2Ch. 7:14-15**—"14-**If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 15-Now Mine eyes shall be open, and Mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.**"
1. What is God's heart on forgiveness (cf. **Jer. 31:34; Col. 1:14; Eph. 1:7-8**)?
 2. What should our heart on forgiveness be?

3. ***Psa. 103:12—"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us."***
- F. If someone asks our forgiveness, what should we do (***Eph. 4:32—"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Col. 3:13—"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."***)?
 1. If we forgive, what does that say about our character?
 2. If we do not forgive, what does that say about our character?
 - G. Why does God command us to forgive (***Heb. 12:15—"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"***)?
- IV. Obstacles to Forgiveness - How can we overcome the following?
- A. **Anger**/Forgiveness has a Cause/Effect relationship (***James 1:19-20—"19-Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20-For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."***).
 1. Why (expectations...)?
 2. What is really at stake (right / wrong, sin...)?
 3. What am I fighting for (bad day, pride, my rights)?
 - B. **Pride** (***Pro. 13:10—"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."***).
 - C. **Fear** (***1Jo. 4:18—"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."***).
 1. But they may do it again...
 2. But they may not change...
- V. Practical Applications
- A. **Forgive quickly** (So the less judgment will occur to us and the offender, the quicker we will be forgiven, the less pain and separation will be experienced, the less time wasted on nurturing destructive feelings, and the more time and emotional energy can be spent on resolving and dealing with the true problem).
 - B. **Forgive first**, then deal work through the issues. If wrong or accused of being wrong, confess sin and do not be afraid to ask for forgiveness (***1Jo. 1:9—"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***). Your mate will not think worse of you, they will respect you more and will find it easier to ask for forgiveness when they have offended you.
 - C. **Grow and nurture Godly character qualities** that are conducive to forgiveness (e.g., love, patience, humility...).
 - D. **Men lead out in forgiveness** (Demonstrating love and forgiveness will create an environment where your whole family can be human and make mistakes and still feel unconditionally loved and accepted).

- E. **Let forgiveness become a pattern** in your life (By forgiving, you can develop a pattern of forgiveness).
- F. **Pray and trust God to give you strength** to forgive (For long term relationships to work and get better, you cannot hang on to past failures, there is more than enough evil for each day [*Mat. 6:34—“...Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”*]).

VI. Conclusion.

- A. Forgiveness is a command and it reveals your character.
- B. Forgiveness is faith that we have been forgiven so much more.
- C. Remember that God promises to Judge:
 - 1. The Wrong person (we do not want mate or person judged).
 - 2. The Right person who does not forgive (so becomes wrong).
 - 3. All those caught up in our sin (harboring anger, becoming bitter).
- D. Can you forgive yourself, why or why not?

- E. Let's be better, not bitter. What are the opposites of Anger, Pride, and Fear (which are all Fruit of the Flesh)?
- F. How can you get forgiveness closure on deep hurtful issues?

- G. Think about a person (maybe family member you grew up with, maybe boss, maybe friend, maybe enemy, anyone or any situation you might be angry at/about...) how can you forgive or begin the process of forgiveness?