

I. Forgiveness from God: Who needs it? Everybody (1 Cor. 6.9-11a)

II. Forgiveness for others: What does it cost?

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

Observations	Applications
Peter asked, "How many times?" (v. 21) Consider the audience.	1. Deny yourself the fantasy that you will ever <u>outgrow</u> the need to forgive.
Jesus answered, "...not seven...but seventy-seven..." (v. 21)	2. Deny yourself the position of <u>record keeping</u> . (1 Cor 13:5) 3. Deny yourself the pride of "do-it-yourself forgiveness." (Lk 17.3-4)
Servant said "I will pay," but the king knew he couldn't. (vv. 25-26)	4. Deny yourself the pretense that you <u>earned</u> God's forgiveness.
"Grabbed...choke...refused...thrown into prison" (vv. 28-30)	5. Deny yourself the pleasure of <u>punishing</u> . (Rom. 12:19)
"prison" (v. 30) The 1 st servant was within his "rights," but...	6. Deny yourself the free exercise of your <u>rights</u> . (1 Cor 6.7-9)

III. Forgiveness in action: Is it really that simple? FAQs

- 1) What if they don't repent? – Understand that forgiveness has two stages:
 Stage one: Prepare your heart (Matthew 18:35, Mk 11:25)
 Stage two: Restore the relationship – possible 2 ways
 Overlook the offense (Proverbs 19:11)
 Work and wait for repentance (Lk. 17:3-4, Matt 18:15-18)
- 2) What if I don't feel like it? Forgiving is not feeling. It is choosing.
- 3) What if I can't forget? Forgiving is not forgetting. It is choosing.
- 4) What about the consequences? That depends on their needs and your motives.
- 5) What if the person who hurt me is far away? You are responsible for you.
(See FAQ #1 and Romans 12:18)
- 6) Do I have to be buddy, buddy after forgiving? No, but follow God's example.
- 7) What if it's just too hard to do on my own? (Prov. 15:22; Phil 4:2-3)

IV. Forgiveness of Others: What if I don't? You hurt yourself most of all.

V. Forgiveness of Others: How do I start? Let go. (Deny self)

- i. Confess your sin of unforgiveness.
- ii. Seek God's help through prayer and His people.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the crucifixion of Jesus mean to you?
2. Who hurt you that you have not yet forgiven?
3. What did they do?
4. How can you demonstrate the forgiveness of God to them?

Suggested Reading

1. *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict* by Ken Sande.

10 January 2010

Scott Hayden

2. *Peacemaking for Families: A Biblical Guide to Managing Conflict in Your Home* by Ken Sande with Tom Raabe:
3. *The Peacemaker: student edition – Handling Conflict without Fighting Back or Running Away* by Ken Sande and Kevin Johnson.