

Christian Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14 - 15 "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."

Charles Spurgeon had this quote "I believe that as often as I transgress, God is more ready to forgive me than I am ready to offend."

Luke 17:3 - 5 "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. (4.) And 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 him. (5.) And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith."

- A. As Christians we must acknowledge that forgiveness is mandatory, not optional.
 1. **Mark 11:25 - 26** "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."
 2. **Romans 12:19** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." - **Matthew 5:39** "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."
- B. As Christians we must acknowledge that unforgiveness gives Satan a foothold in your life.
 1. **2 Corinthians 2:8 - 11** "Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. (9.) For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. (10.) To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; (11.) Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

2. **Ephesians 4:29 - 32** "Let no corrupt (*worthless*) communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (30.) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (31.) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (32.) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

C. As Christians we must acknowledge that you must give up the right to revenge.

1. **Romans 12:17 - 21** "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. (18.) If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. (19.) Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (20.) Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. (21.) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

2. **1 Thessalonians 5:14 - 15** "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. (15.) See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

D. As Christians we must ask our Heavenly Father to give us the ability to have proper forgiveness.

1. **Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

2. **John 15:4 - 6** "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5.) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (6.) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

E. As Christians we must remember our forgiveness is to be unlimited.

1. **Matthew 18:22** "Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."
2. **Micah 7:19** "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."
3. **Ephesians 5:1 - 2** "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; (2.) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

F. As Christians our forgiveness will be seen in how we treat the forgiven.

1. **Romans 12:19 - 21** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (20.) Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. (21.) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."
2. **James 2:12 - 14** "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. (13.) For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. (14.) What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"