



Forgiveness



Introduction

- Brother Wendell Winkler writes, “There are three kindred spirits of the human heart – giving, forgiving and thanksgiving. And, usually where you find one, you will find the others.”

Forgiving Others



Introduction

- **Forgive** = to give up resentment against or the desire to punish; stop being angry with; pardon;
- **Forgiveness** = inclination to forgive or pardon ---
wWebster's Dictionary

Forgiving Others



Forgiveness Is Not:

- Ignoring those who wrong us
- Being bitter and harboring ill will in the heart
- Putting the offender on probation – promising to forgive providing he does not offend us again

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Forgiveness Is Not:

- Making the offender “jump through hoops”
- Saying “I’ll forgive, but I’ll never forget”

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Notice What God Does When He Forgives

- He removes the sin from His record
- Acts 3:19
- He forgets, putting it out of His memory
- Heb. 8:12

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Notice What God Does When He Forgives

- He treats us just like He did before we had sinned – He receives us back wholeheartedly
- Luke 15:20-24

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Bible Examples Of Forgiveness

- Esau forgave Jacob
- Gen. 33:4
- Joseph forgave his brethren
- Gen. 45:5, 7-8;
- Gen. 50:19, 21

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The “Forgiveness Test”- Have I Really Forgiven My Offender

- 1. Do I secretly rejoice when I hear of some misfortune happening to the one who offended me?
- 2. Do I purposefully avoid his/her presence?

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The “Forgiveness Test”- Have I Really Forgiven My Offender

- 3. Do I speak to him/her hesitatingly and only when forced to do so?
- 4. Do I clearly remember the wrong committed?


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The “Forgiveness Test”- Have I Really Forgiven My Offender

- 5. Do I ever sit in silence and meditate or brood over the wrong done to me?
- 6. Would I pray for the one who offended me?
- 7. Have I tried to do a favor for him/her?

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Why We Should Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us

- Because we have been blessed with forgiveness from God
- Eph. 4:32
- So that we might be forgiven also
- Matt. 6:13-15

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Why We Should Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us

- Because we love our brethren – and we want to forgive them and our enemies as well
- Prov. 24:17,29

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Why We Should Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us

- Because we are hurt when we fail to forgive as God does. We allow the past to corrupt our present
- Because it upholds the Golden Rule
- Matt. 7:2,12

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“How” We Are To Forgive

- Forgive from the heart
- Matt. 18:35
- Forgive as God does
- Col. 3:13

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How Often Must We Forgive?

- Mt. 18:21-22
- “As long and as frequently as a man will turn and say, ‘I repent’, We are to forgive him.”
W. Winkler

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Conclusion

- Just as God stands ready to forgive and receive, so we should stand ready to forgive also.

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