

Forgiveness

Tough Stuff

Luke 17:3-5 » ³ “Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ “And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.” ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

It is DIFFICULT to forgive!

Jesus commands us to pray for _____ treatment.

Matt 6:12 » ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matt 6:14-15 » “For 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.”

Mark 11:25 » ²⁵ “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

Forgiveness on earth has direct _____ to your forgiveness by God.

KEY QUESTION

Are you willing to be forgiven by God _____ that you forgive others?

Matthew 18:23-35

What is Biblical Forgiveness?

1) God _____ to Forgive You

1 John 1:9 » If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2) God Does Not Make You _____ for Your Sin or _____ Forgiveness

Ps 103:10 » He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

3) God Puts Your Sin Out of His Mind _____

Ps 103:12 » As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Heb 8:12 » I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

4) God Enters Into a Full _____ Relationship with You

2 Cor 5:18 » Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

5) God Desires Only the _____ For You

Rom 8:28 » And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

How do you know that you've actually forgiven someone?

'When we fight against all thoughts of revenge; when we refuse to do our enemies mischief, but wish good for them, when we grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to help them.'

- Thomas Watson

How do you seek forgiveness?

- 1) Confess your sin to God (Ps 32:5)
- 2) Explicitly confess to people affected by your sin (Luke 19:8)
- 3) Avoid IF, BUT, MAYBE, ALWAYS and NEVER
- 4) Admit specific attitudes & actions – no generalities (e.g., Ps 51:14, Dan 9:5-6)
- 5) Acknowledge the hurt caused (e.g., Gal 2:12-13)
- 6) Accept the consequences & make restitution when possible (Luke 15:19)
- 7) Explain how you will alter your behavior in future (1 Thess 1:8-10)
- 8) Ask for forgiveness (& give time if needed)

SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS

- Do they have to repent first?
- When should I overlook sin?
- What if don't think this person is repentant?
- I've been more hurt by them than you can imagine. I don't think that I can do this...
- What if they don't want to be reconciled?
- Do I have to forgive them, if they ask me to?
- What if I can't stop thinking about their sin?