

3. True forgiveness _____ releases our offender from their obligation to us.

- **Genesis 50:19-21 (NLT)** ¹⁹ But Joseph told them, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, to judge and punish you?” ²⁰ As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil. He brought me to the high position I have today so I could save the lives of many people. ²¹ No, don’t be afraid. Indeed, I myself will take care of you and your families.” And he spoke very kindly to them, reassuring them.

- Forgiveness isn’t a one-time _____ of the heart, but a continual _____ of the will.

- **FORGIVENESS IS _____ THE RIGHT TO HURT YOU FOR HURTING ME.**

- Forgiveness is a _____!

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Part 1 – **Why I Can’t Forgive** (Sunday Morning, September 24)

Part 2 – **Why I Shouldn’t Forgive** (Wednesday Evening, September 27)

Part 3 – **Why I Won’t Forgive** (Sunday Morning, October 1)

Part 4 – **My Choice To Forgive** (Wednesday Evening, October 4)

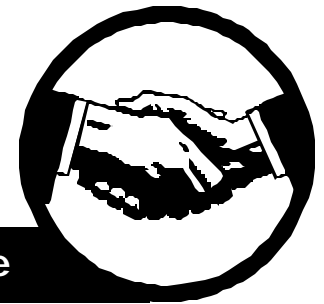
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The Power Of Forgiveness



Part 4 – My Choice To Forgive

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT) If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- _____ is one of the most debilitating of all human emotions. It produces _____ in our relationships.
 - **Isaiah 59:2 (KJV)** But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
 - **Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)** But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.
 - **Isaiah 59:2 (CEV)** Your sins are the roadblock between you and your God. That’s why he doesn’t answer your prayers or let you see his face.
- Paul tells us that a _____ is essential in maintaining our faith!
 - **1 Timothy 1:18-19 (NLT)** Cling tightly to your faith in Christ, and always keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.
 - **Psalms 51:1-3, 7-12 (NLT)** ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my shameful deeds—they haunt me day and night ... ⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. ⁹ Don’t keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

- The guilt we feel BEFORE we repent is called _____. It is sent from _____ to draw us close to God.

- The guilt we may feel AFTER we repent is called _____. It is sent from _____ to push us away from God.

HOW TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FROM OTHERS

1. Determine if you actually _____ to ask forgiveness.

- Sometimes sacrificial love involves our willingness to bear our own _____ instead of asking someone else to share the load.
- **Ephesians 4:29b (CEV)** Say the right thing at the right time and help others by what you say.

2. Your circle of _____ should be no larger than your circle of _____.

- Restrict your confession to those who have been _____.
- **James 5:16 (NLT)** Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

3. Sincerely ask for the other person's _____.

- It is impossible to ask forgiveness and _____ at the same time.
- **Matthew 18:26-27 (NLT)** ²⁶ But the man fell down before the king and begged him, 'Oh, sir, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' ²⁷ Then the king was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

4. Be prepared for a _____ response.

- Whether or not the other party forgives, you will have the freedom of a _____.
- **Acts 24:16 (NLT)** Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and everyone else.
- **1 John 3:19 (CEV)** When we love others, we know that we belong to the truth, and we feel at ease in the presence of God.

HOW TO GIVE FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS

- VENGEANCE that is harbored long enough eventually becomes _____.

- **Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)** Look after each other so that none of you will miss out on the special favor of God. Watch out that no bitter root of unbelief rises up among you, for whenever it springs up, many are corrupted by its poison.

- _____ to vengeance is the source of bitterness, but _____ vengeance (through forgiveness) is the antidote to bitterness.

1. True forgiveness resists unnecessary _____.

- If we've truly forgiven another person, we'll try and keep their sin against us as _____ as possible.
- **Genesis 45:1 (CEV)** Since Joseph could no longer control his feelings in front of his servants, he sent them out of the room. When he was alone with his brothers, he told them, "I am Joseph."

2. True forgiveness relieves people of unhealthy _____.

- There are two types of sorrow that accompany sin. One is a godly kind of sorrow that leads to _____. The other is an unhealthy sorrow that leads to paralyzing self-pity and _____.
- **2 Corinthians 7:10 (AMP)** For godly grief and the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads and contributes to salvation and deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death].
- If you can't let others _____ it, then you haven't _____ it!
- **Genesis 45:5 (CEV)** Don't worry or blame yourselves for what you did. God is the one who sent me ahead of you to save lives.