

Forgiveness: Forgiving Others, Hard but Holy

November 16, 2025

Verse: Ephesians 4:32

Homework: Luke 7:40-50; Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 1:9

What forgiveness is not...

- “Don’t worry about it...”
- “Forgive and Forget”
- “Forgiveness means justifying or condoning bad behavior.”
- “Forgiveness is one-and-done.”
- “Forgiveness requires an apology.”

Review:

- Problem: Sin damages not only our relationship with God, but also with others.
 - Consequences of Sin Genesis 3
 - Family Consequences Genesis 4
- Solution: If you have been forgiven, you too should forgive.
 - Forgiveness Required Matthew 6:12,13-14
 - Pattern of Forgiveness Ephesians 4:32
- Forgiveness is costly.
 - The price God paid: His Son. John 3:16
 - The price we pay: Emotional, Mental, & Spiritual Pain Luke 22:44
- Follow the example of Jesus. Luke 23:34
- Forgiveness requires a higher perspective
 - Harm vs. Good... Genesis 50:15-21
 - The Goal: Restoration of Relationship 2 Cor. 2:7

Process: Forgiveness – Hard but Holy Work

- Forgiveness: Role of Confession and Repentance Matthew 18:15-17
- Forgiveness: Not one-and-done!
 - Up to seven times a day! Luke 17:3-4
 - Up to 490/77 times! Matthew 18:21-22
- Forgiveness: Giving up the Right of Revenge...
 - The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant Romans 12:17-21
 - The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant Matthew 18:21-35
- Forgiveness: The two-fold healing power of forgiveness.
 - The Restoration of my Soul. Hebrews 12:15
 - The Restoration of Relationship. 2 Cor 2:7; Rom 12:18

Keys: Why forgive?

- I have been forgiven much.
- The example of Jesus with forgiveness.
- I have been commanded to do so.
- It brings healing to my soul.
- Relationships are worth restoring.

Application:

- Who do you need to forgive?