

A HEART THAT FORGIVES



**...SO THAT YOUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN WILL ALSO
FORGIVE YOU...**

memorize



FORGIVENESS REQUIRES THE PAYMENT OF CHRIST'S BLOOD

True forgiveness is NOT about choice, feeling, or whether the person who hurt you has confessed or has changed.

True forgiveness is granted because you've been forgiven the great debt you owe God. We struggle with true forgiveness because of lies such as, "You must forgive yourself." That is a lie believed by those who don't trust Jesus' crucifixion as sufficient payment for their sin.

Though you've forgiven the one who hurt you, there may still be consequences for the wrong they've done. However, consequences will not be because you are imposing vengeance.

WHAT DOES FORGIVENESS REALLY MEAN?

JESUS SHOWS US WHAT IT MEANS TO FORGIVE

→ I don't feel like forgiving, so isn't it hypocritical? Forgiveness is obedient faith, not feeling. Jesus showed us how. He prayed with a heart of forgiveness while being tortured. (Luke 23:34)

→ Even if the person who hurt me never admits it, I imitate Christ's heart, attitude, and spirit to forgive. However, like Christ, forgiveness is not communicated until the sin has been confessed.

→ If I keep forgiving won't the sinner just keep on sinning? Forgiveness has nothing to do with the sinner; it has everything to do with pleasing God. God calls us to forgive repeatedly, as our duty.

→ Doesn't forgiveness stop justice? Justice is God's job, not ours. Those who never confess will be punished for eternity. (Revelation 19:15) Our job is to show Christ to others by showing forgiveness.

→ Isn't that denial, acting as if nothing bad has happened? Forgiveness is never denial, because it is based on Christ's punishment on the cross. Jesus never minimizes sin. A blood payment is required for forgiveness of sin.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FORGIVE

When you forgive, you imitate Christ. You decide to release a person from the debt owed when you were injured. You do not dwell on the injury in your mind. You do not talk about it, with the person who hurt you or with others.

PROBLEM We think our biggest problem is the horrible things others have done to us. Not true. It's our own personal sin. God is Holy and God is love. Therefore He must judge every sinful or rebellious thought or act that does not glorify Him. None of us are pure before Him. Every human being deserves to be crucified and sent to Hell. (Romans 3:10)

MERCY But God is merciful and gracious, so Jesus was crucified for us. His brutal murder was the price not only for the hurt inflicted on you, but also for the hurt you have personally given God by not glorifying Him.

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

- When you confess your own personal sin, God mercifully releases you from your debt. You are forgiven by Jesus Christ, the only source of forgiveness.
- Until you've been forgiven by Jesus, you'll struggle to forgive sinners who hurt you. Once Jesus has forgiven you, His mercy flows through you in forgiveness.

MANDATORY Jesus make it very clear that there are no "maybes" about forgiveness.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive their trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15

- How is it possible for forgiveness to be mandatory? Those who have experienced forgiveness are able to forgive. The forgiveness you give is not something new, rather, you extend what has been given you by Christ.
- Everyone who has confessed their own sins and trusted in Christ's forgiveness for their sin is commanded to forgive others. (Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13)



ONCE JESUS HAS FORGIVEN YOU, HIS MERCY CAN FLOW THROUGH YOU.

Jesus Christ's powerful, life-giving blood empowers kindness and tender-heartedness in your forgiving heart.

When you forgive, you are no longer controlled by the person who hurt you. Forgiveness frees you to walk in Christ's mercy and grace.

THE
BATTLE
IS OVER!
CHRIST HAS
WON. HIS VICTORY
PAID THE PRICE FOR
OUR FORGIVENESS AND
BOUGHT OUR FREEDOM.

**OUR
NEED =
JESUS'
BLOOD**

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us. Ephesians 2:7-8