

The Call to Forgiveness

PART 3



Forgiving Others

Jesus spent a great deal of time talking and teaching about the importance of forgiving others. He made it clear that forgiveness is to be a characteristic of His followers. So let's explore what it means to forgive others, the benefits of forgiving and how to forgive.

A. How do I know I have forgiven someone properly?

When you feel compassion toward the person who wronged you, then you can be assured you did truly forgive them. Our standard is not that of the world, but that of God. God does not ask us to minimize the wrong, but He does call us to forgive the person. We are not to repay evil for evil, rather, good for evil, just as our Lord did for us. **1 Peter 2:23-24**

B. The Biblical Steps in Forgiving

Now that we have discussed the why and the what of forgiveness, we need a practical way to apply it to our lives. Remember, we need to have the Biblical mandates in mind, and be willing to surrender our desires for revenge, and the storage of wrongs for future bitterness.

Step 1: Know What Christ Did for You – Romans 3:22-24

- We need a deep sense of the price Christ paid for us.
- Christ forgave us for acts deemed unpardonable.
- With the proper perspective of grace—its cost and meaning—we can forgive others.
- God forgave our failures; why not forgive others?

Step 2: We Must Be Willing to Take the Risk – Romans 12:19, 2 Corinthians 7:10-13a

- Forgiveness is risky—the person may not admit the wrong or accept forgiveness.
- Their response is not our responsibility; our job is to obey God and forgive out of love.
- Forgiveness does not minimize the offense—it:
- Releases guilt
- Stops the cycle of bitterness and dysfunction

Step 3: Cancel the Betrayal – Proverbs 10:12, Proverbs 17:9

- Give up the perceived rights of revenge and retaliation.
- Do this through prayer and self-surrender:
- Ask God to take the desire for revenge away
- Relinquish control by His power, not your own

Step 4: Recognize the Picture of Forgiveness – Romans 5:8, Jeremiah 9:23–24

- Repentance means to change your perspective—from your way to God's way.
- True forgiveness involves: Changing our minds and hearts
- Seeking God's peace and love over our personal desires.
- Keep tuned into God constantly and continually—let Him carry you through!