

"The Necessity of Forgiveness!"

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."
Matthew 18:21-22

God can handle our questions. He can handle our hurts. Our high calling is to be a forgiving people. Forgiveness is not an optional part of the Christian life.

"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive."

- C.S. Lewis

1. Forgiveness comes from God.

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. Psalm 86:5

a. God sets the standard for us to follow.

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." V. 22

b. Jesus is our example.

I am your example; keep doing what I do. John 13:15

2. Forgiveness is heart work.

This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart. Matthew 18:35

a. Actions will reveal our heart.

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. Mark 11:25

b. Unforgiveness impedes progress.

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. Hebrews 12:15

3. Forgiveness leads to freedom.

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free... Galatians 5:1

a. The results belong to God.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

b. The power comes from God.

That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me. Colossians 1:29

What should we do:

Ask God to guide your heart to forgiveness.

a. What do I need forgiveness for? Who do I need to seek forgiveness from?

b. Where do I need to extend grace and forgiveness? What grudge / hurt am I holding on to?

c. Meditate on scripture and pray for God to bring restoration where needed. [**Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 6:14, 2 Corinthians 13:11, 1 John 1:9, 1 Peter 4:8**]

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