

Lesson C10 – What Christians Stand For – FORGIVENESS

Opening Discussion

1. Talk about a time when somebody was mean to you or hurt your feelings. How did it make you feel?
2. When somebody is mean to you, do you want to get even? Why or why not?
3. Why is it hard to forgive? Explain.
4. Why is it better to forgive rather than get even? Explain.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you!

Colossians 3:12-14

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.** ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Rate each of the following statements as mark whether you think the statements are an **ACCURATE** or an **INACCURATE** description of forgiveness:

1. You cannot honestly forgive someone unless that person shows some remorse for what they did. ___ **ACCURATE** ___ **INACCURATE**
2. If you really forgive someone, you would want that person to be released from the consequences of their actions. ___ **ACCURATE** ___ **INACCURATE**
3. If you genuinely forgive someone, you should rebuild your relationship with that person. ___ **ACCURATE** ___ **INACCURATE**
4. If you have really forgiven someone, you should be able to forget what they have done to you. ___ **ACCURATE** ___ **INACCURATE**

FORGIVENESS AND CONSEQUENCES

The Bible clearly distinguishes between two very important words:

- _____ is my desire to see another person suffer for the pain he has caused me. The Bible consistently warns against harboring this kind of feeling in my heart.

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

- _____ is the payment God or society might demand from someone because of a wrong they have committed against us, or against society as a whole.

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

VENGEANCE	JUSTICE
Our personal desire for retribution against our offender	The repayment another person demands from our offender
Striving to settle the debt ourselves	Allowing someone else to settle the score
Leads to bitterness	Leads to healing

Why would a forgiving God (or a forgiving person) still allow someone to suffer consequences for their actions?

1. Consequences promote _____ in society.

Genesis 9:6 (NKJV) *Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God he made man.*

2. Consequences serve as a _____ to others.

1 Timothy 5:20 *Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.*

3. Consequences prevent us from further _____.

Psalms 119:67 (NLT) *I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word.*

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

"If you genuinely forgive someone, you should rebuild your relationship with that person."

- **Matthew 5:23-24** ²³ *"So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*
- **Psalms 133:1** *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

**FORGIVENESS DEPENDS UPON _____,
WHILE RECONCILIATION DEPENDS UPON _____.**

- **Romans 12:18** *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*
- **Amos 3:3** *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*

Watch and Discuss The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED3fzKS-bhA&t=60s>

Watch and discuss Joseph Forgives His Brothers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndETu4bzwAY>

Reconciliation usually involves three ingredients:

1. _____ – admitting that we are responsible for the wrong that has been done to another person
2. _____ – offering some type of compensation to the person we have wronged for the loss they suffered
3. _____ – demonstrating a change in our behavior over a period of time toward the person we have wronged

FORGIVENESS	RECONCILIATION
It takes one person to forgive	It takes two to be reunited
Forgiving happens inside the wounded person	Reunion happens in a relationship between people
We can forgive a person who never says he is sorry	We cannot be truly reunited unless he is honestly sorry
We can forgive even if we do not trust the person who wronged us once not to wrong us again	Reunion can happen only if we can trust the person who wronged us once not to wrong us again
Forgiving has no strings attached	Reunion has several strings attached

FORGIVENESS AND FORGETTING

“If you have really forgiven someone, you should be able to forget what they have done to you.”

- **Jeremiah 31:34c** ... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

It’s not that God _____remember,
it’s that He _____remember!

Forgetting is a function of the _____;

forgiving is a function of the _____.

HOW CAN I HANDLE MEMORIES OF A PAST HURT?

1. Do not _____the memories.
2. Recall your own _____.
3. Remember your _____to forgive.
4. Realize that healing memories takes _____.