

Are you a Forgiving Person?

When we say forgiveness we mean...

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The root of forgiveness is God

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Mark 11:25 Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

We forgive because
God first forgave.

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.

¹⁹ “If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land;

Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

God initiates
forgiveness

Exodus 34:6 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

Forgiveness is a
part of Who God is

How am I supposed to forgive then?

- Don't let your anger/bitterness fester. Do something to be at peace with your brother.
- Be willing to forgive even if the other person doesn't ask for forgiveness.
- 70 by 7 Principle
- Remember how much you've been forgiven of.
- Forgive to inspire change.
- Point people to the source of deeper forgiveness.

Acts 7:54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. ⁵⁸ When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰ Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Some final questions to consider

1. Is there hurt that's been committed to me that is worth someone's soul being lost?
2. When others are going through a conflict, do I encourage forgiveness, or getting even?
3. Do I like being in the right as some form of leverage or do I want others to be right with God?
4. How do I treat people after I've forgiven them?
5. How quick am I to mention someone's "forgiven" wrong-doing when they hurt me?
6. If others forgave me the way I forgive them, how much guilt would I live with?
7. If God forgave as I forgive, where would my soul be?
8. Am I going to be forgiven and not forgive?