

Forgiveness

This parable puts forgiveness into perspective - Matt 18:23-35 - 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 **The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.** 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "**His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'** 30 "**But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.** 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 **Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'** 34 **In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.** 35 "**THIS IS HOW MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL TREAT EACH OF YOU UNLESS YOU FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER FROM YOUR HEART."**

Part of our repentance depends on us forgiving others

In our prayers we are asking to be forgiven based on how we forgive - Matt 6:12 Forgive us our debts, **AS we** also have forgiven our debtors.

When we don't forgive others, it hinders us from being forgiven by God - Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, SO THAT your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

In a nutshell if you choose not to forgive, God WILL NOT forgive you - Matt 6:14-15 - 14 For **IF you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.** 15 But **IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE MEN THEIR SINS, YOUR FATHER WILL NOT FORGIVE YOUR SINS.**

Some say there are two types of forgiveness that exist:

- 1) **Judicial Forgiveness** – The forgiveness God extends to all believers as our righteous Judge. This forgiveness is based solely on the redemptive work of Christ. This level of forgiveness makes us His children.
- 2) **Paternal Forgiveness** – The forgiveness God extends to us as our heavenly Father after we become his children. This forgiveness restores broken fellowship.

***There is NO Biblical foundation for the concept of different forgiveness.**

Retaliation, is NEVER acceptable, revenge belongs to God ONLY - Rom 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.

Those living in Love are living in true forgiveness - 1 Cor 13:5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

We are to work with Christians to display true Godly forgiveness

It's vital that Christians have a forgiving and loving character all the time with one another - Col 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.

For believers, accountability needs to work hand in hand with forgiveness - Luke 17:3-4 - 3 So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

***Like with God's forgiveness, this means our forgiveness is always offered, however the person benefits from that forgiveness only when they receive it.**

We are not to complain about other Christians - James 5:9 **Don't grumble against each other,** brothers, or **YOU WILL BE JUDGED.** The Judge is standing at the door!

There is a God-given process to dealing with conflicts with other believers - Matt 18:15-17 - 15 "**If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.** If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 **If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.**

When we forgive, we still must use Godly judgment on how to respond

If we judge incorrectly, we are in the danger of being corrupted - 1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Good example is with a bad-tempered person - Prov 22:24-25 - 24 **Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,** 25 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Be warned, how you judge, will be how you're judged - Matt 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

When it comes to true repentance, there are two types of sorrow, fleshly (which is destructive) and Godly (which is life) - 2 Cor 7:8-11 - 8
Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it — I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—
9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. **For you became sorrowful as**
God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 **Godly sorrow** brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret,
but **worldly sorrow** brings death. 11 See what this **godly sorrow has produced in you:** what earnestness, what eagerness to clear
yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved
yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

Let's sum up what forgiveness looks like

- * If your response is retaliation for what a person did to you, then you have NOT forgiven
- * If your response is wisdom or righteousness then you have forgiven (Only God and you know, and God can not be mocked (Gal 6:7-9))
- * How you feel DOES NOT dictate if you have forgiven or not, unless your feelings are the basis on how you act (James 1:13-15)