

Love Forgives & Forgets, Pt. 2
Sermon Series: Are You A Good Neighbor?
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- + Matthew 22:37-40, "Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments" (NLT).
- + 1 Corinthians 14:1, "Let love be your highest goal" (NLT).
- + 1 Corinthians 13:5c, "Love keeps no record of being wronged" (NLT).
- + 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, "This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. ⁵It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. ⁶Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. ⁷It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails" (PHL).

When Does Forgiveness Occur?

1. Forgiveness occurs when I relinquish _____.

- + Romans 12:19, "Never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, 'I will take revenge; I will pay them back,' says the Lord" (NLT).
- + Hebrews 12:15, "Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives. For if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself, but it can also poison the lives of many others" (PHL).

2. Forgiveness occurs when I _____ to the wrong done

- + Luke 6:27-28, Jesus said, "But if you who hear Me; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you (GNT).

- How do you know when you've genuinely forgiven somebody? You can genuinely _____.

- + 1 Corinthians 13:5c, "Love doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do" (CEV).

3. Forgiveness occurs when I keep forgiving them for as long as it takes to know _____.

- + Matthew 5:38-39, Jesus said, "The prevailing response to being wrong in your culture is, 'Take an eye in exchange for an eye and a tooth in exchange for a tooth.' Meaning — settle the score. Get even. ³⁹However, I say to you, don't repay an evil act with another evil act. Instead, you are to instantly forgive that person no matter how many times they wrong you" (PAR).
- + Luke 7:14, Jesus said, "Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive" (NLT).

There Are A Couple Of Things You Can Do To Apply This Principle

a. The _____.

b. You can _____ to the person but you never _____.

- It is not the _____ hurt that destroys the marriage; it's the _____ that destroys the marriage.
- + Colossians 3:13, "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others" (NLT).
- + Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (NLT).

- + Romans 3:23, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" (NLT).
- + Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it was only through this wonderful grace that we believed in him. Nothing we did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the gracious gift from God that brought us to Christ! ⁹So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving" (TPT).

Why Should I Forgive the Person Who Wronged Me?

- a. _____ has given you a debt you can _____.
- b. _____ makes you _____.
- c. **Forgiveness is a two-way street and you're going to _____**
_____.

+ Matthew 6:12, Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us" (NLT).

- Here's the point: If you don't _____ the person who wronged you, you will end up _____ them.

+ Isaiah 43:25, "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for My own sake, and remembers your sins no more" (NIV).

- The Hebrew words translated as "remembers no more" is the [לֹא זָכַר, lo zakhar]. "Zakhar" means "to put down a marker." It originally was used to refer to putting down a mark as with marking trees to know one's path; or, putting down markers to section off property. It was used in accounting to mean "to keep a record; to keep a scorecard, to mention." When the verb is used with relationships and the Hebrew word "lo" ("No, not") it means "not to _____." It means "not to bring back up again; not to wave in the face of."

+ Romans 8:28, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them" (NLT).

- You can either _____ your hurt and become a _____ or you can _____ your hurt through God's grace and become the _____ you are suppose to be.

4. Forgiveness occurs when I realize _____.

+ James 4:14, "You don't have a clue what tomorrow may bring. For your fleeting life is but a warm breath of air that is visible in the cold only for a moment and then vanishes!" (TPT).

+ Matthew 27:3-5, "Now, when Judas, the betrayer, saw that Jesus had been sentenced to death, remorse filled his heart. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and religious leaders, ⁴saying, "I have sinned because I have betrayed an innocent man." They replied, "Why are you bothering us? That's your problem." ⁵Then Judas flung the silver coins inside the temple and went out and hanged himself" (TPT).

+ Deuteronomy 21:22-23, "If someone has committed a crime worthy of death and is executed and hung on a tree, ²³the body must not remain hanging from the tree overnight. You must bury the body that same day, for anyone who is hung is cursed in the sight of God" (NLT).

+ Matthew 26:25, Jesus said, "For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays Him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!" (NLT).

+ 1 Corinthians 13:5c, "Love keeps no record of being wronged" (NLT).

+ Matthew 6:15, Jesus said, "But if you withhold forgiveness from others, Your Father withholds forgiveness from you" (TPT).

- Jesus' words in Matthew 6:15 are frightening. The bottom line is this: am I a neighbor who is _____ giving or who holds a _____ when I am wronged?