



FAILING TO FORGIVE?

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times." vv. 21-22

for-give v. to give up the right to be repaid

I. Forgiveness is a calling for a kingdom citizen.

Forgiveness is a _____ .

Forgiveness is a _____ choice.

Forgiveness is a _____ choice.

II. Failing to forgive is inconsistent with kingdom values.

Failing to forgive is spiritually _____ , forgetting how God has treated us.

Failing to forgive is relationally _____ , rippling out to other relationships.

Failing to forgive is personally _____ , imprisoning us in the past.

■ "FORGIVE FROM THE HEART" BY GETTING A NEW _____ !

Get right with the _____ .

Give up the pursuit of _____ .

Gain God's perspective through _____ .

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32





Easter at Christ Chapel

Celebrate Life and run to the resurrection with us this Easter weekend. Join us Saturday, April 4, or Sunday, April 5, and be part of the celebration. RSVP today!

HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What was interesting to you about Peter's question?
2. How many times did Peter think was more than enough to forgive? How many times did Jesus say we must forgive? What does His number really suggest?
3. How can an unforgiving heart affect a person? How has this happened to you?
4. Is forgiveness a feeling, or an action? How can you tell? Is it a one-time event?
5. Forgiving doesn't mean forgetting, so in order to have wise boundaries, what may forgiveness *not* mean? (For example, it may not mean restored relationship.)
6. Read Proverbs 19:11. What does this verse mean? Does this apply to every kind of sin, or only certain types? Does it mean we should ignore sin?
7. What is the first step in forgiveness? How does it encourage you to know that you can't do this in your own power? What help did the sermon give in this regard?
8. Jesus told us that we must forgive in order to be forgiven. Is there someone you need to forgive, or someone's forgiveness you need to seek? Spend time in prayer thanking God for His forgiveness and asking for His help. Pray for each other during the week as you pursue humility by living out forgiveness in your life.

HELPFUL Quotes

Peter may have wondered how long he should forgive his sinning brother, especially when the sin was against him personally. According to some Jewish tradition, a brother was forgiven three times for the same offense. The fourth offense, however, need not be forgiven, because it would be evidence that the brother had not repented. Peter thought he was being generous in forgiving up to seven times. - *Stuart Weber*

It is clear that we as believers in Christ should be occupied with how graciously God has forgiven us our wrongs rather than with how the world or the church recognizes our rights. Emotionally, we should be occupied with the love of God and should be seeking to express our love for Him in obedient service, however lowly and unrecognized we may remain by the church or the world. - *John Walvoord*

What was wrong with this man? The same thing that is wrong with many professing Christians: They have received forgiveness, but they have not really experienced forgiveness deep in their hearts. Therefore, they are unable to share forgiveness with those who have wronged them. If we live only according to justice, always seeking to get what is ours, we will put ourselves into prison. But if we live according to forgiveness, sharing with others what God has shared with us, then we will enjoy freedom and joy. Peter asked for a just measuring rod; Jesus told him to practice forgiveness and forget the measuring rod. - *Warren Wiersbe*

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!