

# Forgiveness

**Do you ever struggle with forgiving others?**

**How does one forgive?**

**Is there a method or technique we use when we forgive?**

**If we want to learn how to forgive, let's follow God's example.**

*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

*Colossians 3:13 Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

**Sin or an offense always creates a separation:**

*Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.*

**When someone sins against you, is there a separation?**

**God always initiates forgiveness:**

*Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.*

*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners [sinning], Christ died for us.*

**Forgiveness requires sacrifice:**

*Hebrews 9:22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.*

**Peace comes through sacrifice:**

*Colossians 1:20-21 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

**Forgiveness happens while others are still offending us:**

*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners [sinning], Christ died for us.*

**God leads with forgiveness; He initiates forgiveness:**

*Romans 5:10-11 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life! Not only that, but we also continue to boast about God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah, through whom we have now been reconciled.*

### **Forgiveness is ultimately about reconciliation:**

*Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

*Acts 7:26 But now through Christ Jesus you, who were once far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

*Matthew 5:23-24 So then, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother and then come and present your gift.*

*Colossians 1:19-22 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.*

### **Choose to forgive:**

*Ephesians 4:30-32 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

### **Forgive freely:**

*Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came up and asked him, "Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me and I have to forgive him? Seven times?" Jesus told him, "I tell you, not just seven times, but 77 times.*

### **God forgiving us is contingent on our forgiving others:**

*Matthew 6:14–15 Yes, if you forgive others for their sins, your Father in heaven will also forgive you for your sins. But if you don't forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.*

### **What are the lies we believe that prevent us from forgiving?**

#### **Foundational lies we have been taught from childhood:**

- Adultery is unforgiveable
- I can forgive but I can't forget
- I can never forgive that person for doing that
- When they demonstrate that they are sorry, I'll forgive them