

LET IT GO

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And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

- **PowerPoint:** The most effective way to represent Jesus Christ in society is through "forgiveness".
- **PowerPoint:** You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Luke 6:35-36 KJV - [35] *But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. 36] Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

- **PowerPoint:** Forgiveness - The act of pardoning an offender.

In the scriptures the Greek word translated forgiveness literally means "to let go", as when a person does not demand payment for a debt. Jesus used this comparison in the pattern prayer when he taught us to pray saying forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. We forgive others when we let go of resentment and give up any claim to be compensated for the hurt or loss we have suffered.

Godly forgiveness is:

- 1: A willful deliberate decision to release the offender from the guilt of his sin,
- 2: To refuse to bring up the offense to use against the offender
- 3: To refuse to dwell mentally on the offense (remember to forget)
- 4: To choose not to talk to others about the offense
- 5: To be reconciled to the offender if expedient.

2 Corinthians 5:18 KJV - [18] *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

- **PowerPoint:** People can get along if we are willing to choose peace over power.

Forgiveness is:

- A: The ability to condescend without being condescending.
- B: The grace to make oneself less to make someone else more.
- C: The humility to be thought of as being wrong even if you are right.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

- **PowerPoint:** Children = Huios = those whose character God, as a loving father, shapes by chastisements.

Hebrews 12:5-6 KJV - *[5] And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: [6] For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

Hebrews 12:11 KJV - *[11] Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

- **PowerPoint:** The greater the pain you have endured the greater the power you have access to. But that power can only be "harnessed" through forgiveness.
- **PowerPoint:** If you do not live in forgiveness, pain will kill what could have been healed.

II. 12 principles on forgiveness

1. Man has two great spiritual needs.

I. To receive forgiveness.

II. To release forgiveness received to someone else in need of it.

2: To be a Christian means to forgive the unforgettable because God has forgotten the unforgivable in you.

Jeremiah 31:34 KJV -*[34] And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord : for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the*

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Lord : for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

3: I can forgive, but I cannot forget, is only another way of saying, I will not forgive.

4: To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless.

➤ PP: Forgiveness must not be feelings based it must be faith based.

Romans 4:17-18 KJV - [17] *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18] Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.*

5: To exhibit true love, we must learn to love forgiveness more than vengeance.

Micah 6:8 KJV - [8] *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

6: There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love.

7: Our forgiving others is not a cause of God's forgiving us, but it is a condition without which He will not forgive us.

Matthew 6:15 KJV - [15] *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

8: No child of God sins to that degree as to make himself incapable of forgiveness.

Mark 3:28-29 KJV - [28] *Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: 29] But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*

9: He that cannot forgive others, destroys the bridge over which he himself must pass if he would ever reach heaven; for everyone has need to be forgiven.

10: Where the voice of condemnation is loud, the voice of forgiveness must be louder.

Romans 5:20 KJV - [20] Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

11: Our love for God and our appreciation of His love and forgiveness will be in proportion to the recognition of our sin and unworthiness.

Luke 7:37-43,47-48 KJV - [37] *And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, [38] And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. 39] Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. [40] And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41] There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42] And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43] Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. [47] Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48] And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.*

12: As long as we live on earth, there will be injustices. Yet God desires for us to let go of resentment and embrace His grace. The Holy Spirit will give you the capacity to forgive those who have hurt you the deepest.

Ten Must-know Reasons to Forgive

1: Forgive people who hurt us so that God may forgive us our sins.

Mark 11:25 - *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

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2: Forgiveness doesn't excuse the offenders behavior. Forgiveness prevents their behavior from destroying you.

3: You will begin to heal when you let go of past hurts, forgive those who have wronged you and learn to forgive yourself for your mistakes.

4: Forgiveness does not change your past, but it does change your future.

5: In order to receive new power we must be willing to release old pain.

6: It takes a strong person to say I'm sorry but a stronger person to say I forgive you.

7: Without forgiveness life is governed by an endless cycle of resentment and retaliation.

8: Forgiveness is the budget balancer of the heart. Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of dreams.

9: Pain is the fist that knocks you down. Forgiveness is the hand that helps you back up again.

10: Forgiveness is not always easy. At times, it feels more painful than the wound we suffered, to forgive the one that inflicted it. And yet, there is no peace without forgiveness.

2 Corinthians 13:11 KJV - *[11] Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*