



I Forgive You Proverbs | 09.20.20

Proverbs 19:11 *The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.*

No more are we like Jesus Christ than when we forgive those who sin against us.

What Biblical forgiveness is...

1. Biblical forgiveness is aware of an offense and chooses to forgive anyway.
2. Biblical forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling.

- Our thoughts and emotions are not trustworthy.
- Do not believe everything thing you feel and think.

Luke 17:3-5 *If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." ⁵And the apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith.**"*

3. Biblical forgiveness refuses to punish.
4. Biblical forgiveness is cautious in telling others of an offense.
 - Retelling our story can be a method of revenge.
 - Ask yourself, "Why am I sharing this information? Who am I sharing it with?"
5. Biblical forgiveness demonstrates grace and mercy.

Ephesians 4:32 *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

6. Biblical forgiveness is an issue of the heart. **Proverbs 4:23**
7. Biblical forgiveness is a demonstration of faith. **Hebrews 11:6**

- *Faith* is obeying God regardless of feelings, circumstances, or consequences.

8. Biblical forgiveness follows the example of Jesus Christ. **Eph. 5:1-2, Heb. 4:14-16, 12:3, 1 Pet. 2:19-25**

What Biblical forgiveness is not...

1. Biblical forgiveness is not an approval of the offense, nor does it excuse the sin.
2. Biblical forgiveness is not reconciliation.
3. Biblical forgiveness is not forgetting the offense.

"There is no use in talking as if forgiveness were easy...I've forgiven him more times than I can count. For we find that the work of forgiveness has to be done over and over again. We forgive, we mortify our resentment; a week later, some chain of thought carries us back to the original offense,

and we discover the old resentment blazing away as if nothing had been done about it at all. We need to forgive our brother seventy times seven not only for 490 offenses but for one offense.”
C.S. Lewis

- The person who **gains the most** from forgiveness **is the one who does the forgiving.**

4. Biblical forgiveness does not pretend there is no hurt.

Genesis 50:18-21 *Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.”¹⁹ Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

5. Biblical forgiveness does not attempt to minimize sin.

6. Biblical forgiveness is not the removal of consequences.

- Repentance should be demonstrated.
- Retribution may be in order.
- Rebuilding trust may have to be developed.

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- **The choice** to continue in unforgiveness shows that we **are not sufficiently grateful for God’s forgiveness** of our own sins. **It is a serious issue not to forgive.**

Matthew 18:32-25 *Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.³³ **Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’³⁴ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.³⁵ “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”***

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ **For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.***

Who is it that God is asking you to forgive?

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