

A wooden cross stands on a rocky surface next to an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with text, and a yellow bookmark is visible. The background is a clear blue sky. A dark teal wavy line separates the image from the text on the right.

From Your Heart

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Matthew 18:21-35

3 Questions

1. What is unforgiveness?
2. What resources has God given us to overcome it?
3. How is unforgiveness destructive to us and those around us?

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:23–24

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

Matthew 18:25

But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

Matthew 18:26–27

The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:28

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

Matthew 18:29

So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

Matthew 18:30–31

And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

Matthew 18:32–33

Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’

Matthew 18:34–35

And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

1. What is Unforgiveness?

Forgiveness releases someone and pays the debt.

What Forgiveness Does Not Mean

Feeling that everything is okay

What Forgiveness Does Not Mean

Feeling that everything is okay

Forgetting what happened

What Forgiveness Does Not Mean

Feeling that everything is okay

Forgetting what happened

Excusing the wrong

What Forgiveness Does Not Mean

Feeling that everything is okay

Forgetting what happened

Excusing the wrong

Tolerating abuse

Forgiveness and safety

Forgiveness does not mean staying in an unsafe relationship or allowing continued harm.

Consequences, restrictions, and protection can be necessary.

Please reach out for help.

1. What is Unforgiveness?

Forgiveness releases someone and pays the debt.

1. What is Unforgiveness?

Forgiveness releases someone and pays the debt.

Unforgiveness retains the debt and demands payment.

Unforgiveness in Practice

I'm not letting go of this

Unforgiveness in Practice

I'm not letting go of this

I won't let you forget what you did

Unforgiveness in Practice

I'm not letting go of this

I won't let you forget what you did

I want to hurt your relationships

Unforgiveness in Practice

I'm not letting go of this

I won't let you forget what you did

I want to hurt your relationships

There is no us – just the incident

2. What are our resources?



2. What are our resources?

God's heart toward us

Christ's sacrifice for our sins

The Holy Spirit transforming our hearts

Objections

They haven't repented

Objections

They haven't repented

This person's sin is worse than anything
I've done

Objections

They haven't repented

This person's sin is worse than anything
I've done

This person keeps sinning against me

3. The consequences



1 Peter 5:5b

...Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

James 2:13

For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Ephesians 4:31–32

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Proverbs 17:9

He who covers a transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter separates
friends.

An unforgiveness check

Do I think I am better than my brothers and sisters?

Do I want them to suffer judgment?

Do I degrade them when I talk to others?

3. The consequences

Pride meets God's resistance.

Mercilessness meets judgment.

Bitterness and evil speaking destroy relationships.

Matthew 6:14–15

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

From Your Heart

Turn from an unforgiving heart.

Confess it as sin.

Ask God for forgiveness through Christ.

Live in fellowship with Him.