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Title: Learning to Forgive Like Jesus Forgives

Text: Luke 23:34

Unlimited forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-22 - ²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Unconditional forgiveness

"know not what they do"

Universal forgiveness

"Forgive them"

A definition for forgiveness could be: giving up my right to hurt you, for hurting me. It is impossible to live in a world of sin without getting hurt, offended, misunderstood, lied to, and rejected. Learning how to respond properly is one of the basics of the Christian life.

The word "forgive" means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, to cancel a debt. When we wrong someone, we seek his or her forgiveness in order for the relationship to be restored. It is important to remember that forgiveness is not granted because a person deserves to be forgiven. Instead, it is an act of love, mercy, and grace.

What It Doesn't Mean:

Forgiving others doesn't mean we ever forget what they did.

Forgiving others doesn't mean that justice is not followed.

Forgiving others doesn't mean we will put ourselves back into a harmful situation.

We forgive them because God forgave us (Ephesians 4:31-32, Romans 5:8).

Forgiveness includes withholding our acts of retaliation.

What Does God's Word Say About Forgiveness?

We forgive because we have been forgiven by God (Ephesians 4:32).

We forgive in obedience to God (Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:18).

We forgive others to gain control of our lives from hurt emotions (Genesis 4:1-8).

We forgive so we won't become bitter and defile those around us (Hebrews 12:14-15).

What If I Don't Feel Like Forgiving Others?

When we don't forgive others it will result in bitterness; bitterness has been linked to stress-related illnesses by some medical researchers.

When we don't forgive others it hinders our walk with God.

When we forgive others we demonstrate obedience & submission to God's will.

Luke 11:4 - Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.