

Forgiving Others

Understanding why, when and how we are to forgive others

Introduction

- Nothing more fundamental for Christians to understand and obey than the Lord's commands to forgive others as we have been forgiven by Him
- Obstacles to forgiving others - bitterness, malice, sinful anger, selfishness, self-righteousness and grudge-holding must be repented of and put away

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Introduction

- But, are we commanded to forgive others who make no effort to repent?
- Are we sinning if we do not forgive others under certain conditions?
- And, are our relationships always restored after we extend forgiveness to others?
- Is there any difference between God forgiving us and our forgiving others

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Forgiving Others

1. Why should we forgive others?
2. Compare Divine and Christian forgiveness
3. Are we to forgive those who do not repent?

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Forgiving Others Commanded

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

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God Will Not Forgive Us If We Do Not forgive Others

Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mat 6:15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

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We Must Forgive Others Because God Has Forgiven Us

Mat 18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Mat 18:22 Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Mat 18:23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 7

We Must Forgive Others Because God Has Forgiven Us

Mat 18:24 "When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

Mat 18:25 "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 8

We Must Forgive Others Because God Has Forgiven Us

Mat 18:26 "So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'

Mat 18:27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 9

We Must Forgive Others Because God Has Forgiven Us

Mat 18:28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'

Mat 18:29 "So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began to plead* with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' 10

We Must Forgive Others Because God Has Forgiven Us

Mat 18:30 "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

Mat 18:31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 11

We Must Forgive Others Because God Has Forgiven Us

Mat 18:32 "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Mat 18:33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' 12

We Must Forgive Others Because God Has Forgiven Us

Mat 18:34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

Mat 18:35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

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Why Should We Forgive Others?

1. Forgiving others commanded
2. God will not forgive us if we do not forgive others
3. We must forgive others because God has forgiven us

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What Does It Mean To Forgive?

- Forgiveness means to release one from a debt owed
- Spiritually, God releases us from our debt of sin
- Our forgiving others – recognize God's mercy toward us and them and do not in any way hold sins against them

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Necessity of Forgiveness

- Divine forgiveness absolutely essential to our salvation
- Christian forgiveness essential for the one doing the forgiving but not essential to the one being forgiven

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Divine Conditions For Forgiveness

- Although God is willing to forgive all, He has set conditions we must meet in order for us to receive His forgiveness
- Belief, repentance and baptism are conditions for becoming a Christian, being forgiven of our sins
- Christians must meet the conditions of repenting, confessing and praying so we may be forgiven of sins

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Divine Conditions For Forgiving Lost Sinners

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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Divine Conditions For Forgiving Lost Sinners

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Divine Conditions For Forgiving Christians

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Divine Conditions For Christians Forgiving Others

- Some teach there are no conditions for us to forgive others
- Scriptures reveal that the condition for us to forgive others is repentance
- Only God knows whether someone repents
- We must forgive but over time, we should see fruits of repentance

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Divine Conditions For Christians Forgiving Others

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

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Divine Conditions For Christians Forgiving Others

Luk 17:1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come!

Luk 17:2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble.

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Divine Conditions For Christians Forgiving Others

Luk 17:3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Luk 17:4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

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Divine Conditions For Christians Forgiving Others

2Co 2:6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority,

2Co 2:7 so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

2Co 2:8 Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him.

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After Forgiveness

- After Divine forgiveness – God never holds our sins against us
- We are accepted by God
- After Christians forgive each other, we should not recall sins
- We should accept one another in the Lord
- Sometimes relationships will be different such as effects of a Scriptural divorce for fornication and civil punishments

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After Forgiveness

Heb 8:12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

1Co 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

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After Forgiveness

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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After Forgiveness – Sometimes Our Relationships Are Different

Mat 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Act 25:11 "If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is *true* of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."

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Forgiving Others

1. Why should we forgive others?
2. Compare Divine and Christian forgiveness
3. Are we to forgive those who do not repent?

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Why Should We Forgive Others?

1. Forgiving others commanded
2. God will not forgive us if we do not forgive others
3. We must forgive others because God has forgiven us

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Are We To Forgive Those Who Do Not Repent?

- Scriptures reveal that the condition for us to forgive others is repentance
- Only God knows whether someone repents
- We must forgive but over time, we should see fruits of repentance
- But, what about Jesus and Stephen praying for those who were murdering them to be forgiven?

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Are We To Forgive Those Who Do Not Repent?

- Does this prove we are to forgive, especially those who are not serving God, whether they repent or not?
- First, how their prayers were answered
- Second, what do we do when we are not commanded to forgive others who make no effort to repent?

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For What Did Jesus Pray?

Luk 23:34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

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For What Did Jesus Pray?

- Some believe Jesus was praying the Lord would forgive with no conditions attached
- Some would say Jesus forgave them with no conditions attached
- The truth – Jesus prayed they might be forgiven by the Father which happened when they became Christians by believing in Jesus, repenting of their sins and being baptized for forgiveness of sins

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When Were They Forgiven of Jesus' Crucifixion?

Act 2:23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

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When Were They Forgiven of Jesus' Crucifixion?

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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When Were They Forgiven of Jesus' Crucifixion?

Act 3:15 but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, a *fact* to which we are witnesses.

Act 3:17 "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.

Act 3:19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

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For What Did Stephen Pray?

- Some believe Stephen was praying the Lord would forgive with no conditions attached
- Some would say Stephen forgave them with no conditions attached
- The truth – Stephen prayed they might be forgiven by the Father which happened when they became Christians by believing in Jesus, repenting of their sins and being baptized for forgiveness of sins

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For What Did Stephen Pray?

Act 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

Act 7:52 "Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

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For What Did Stephen Pray?

Act 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it."

Act 7:54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him.

Act 7:56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

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For What Did Stephen Pray?

Act 7:57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

Act 7:58 When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

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For What Did Stephen Pray?

Act 7:59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

Act 7:60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

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When Were They Forgiveness of Jesus' and Stephen's Deaths?

Act 26:10 "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.

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When Were They Forgiveness of Jesus' and Stephen's Deaths?

Act 26:14 "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

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When Were They Forgiveness of Jesus' and Stephen's Deaths?

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

- Regarding non-Christians, we should pray always for their salvation, love them and do good toward them, never seek personal vengeance and in some cases avoid them
- Regarding brethren, we should follow commands to resolve sinful situations, never taking personal vengeance and if need be, be willing to suffer wrong, leaving all in His hands, always being ready to forgive

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Rom 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Rom 12:20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'"

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Mat 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Mat 5:45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

2Ti 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

2Ti 4:15 Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Mat 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Mat 18:16 "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Mat 18:17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

2Th 3:14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.

2Th 3:15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

2Jn 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

2Jn 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

2Jn 1:11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

1Co 6:5 I say *this* to your shame. *Is it so, that* there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,

1Co 6:6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

1Co 6:7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Luk 15:17 "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

Luk 15:18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Luk 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."

Luk 15:20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

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What Do We Do When We Are Not Commanded To Forgive?

Luk 15:24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

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