

FORGIVENESS



WHAT IS IT?
HOW DO I DO IT?

Col 3:12 ¶ Therefore, as the elect of God,
holy and beloved, put on tender mercies,
kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
13 bearing with one another, and **forgiving**
one another, if anyone has a complaint
against another; even as **Christ forgave you**,
so you also must do.

Matt 6:14 "For if you **forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 "But if you do **not forgive** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matt 18:34 "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."

Two Words for Forgiveness



❖ **cari,zomai charizomai**

From charis (grace). To be gracious; show grace; to forgive on the basis of grace

❖ **avfi,hmi (aphiemi)**

to release from legal obligation; divorce;
cancel a debt = forgive

Forgiveness: 3 Categories



- 1. Eternal: (judicial)
 - Colossians 2:13: And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

χαρίζομαι

Forgiveness: 3 Categories



- 2. Paternal (family fellowship—father and children)
 - 1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

ἀφίημι

Forgiveness: 3 Categories



- 3. Fraternal (family fellowship between siblings))
 - **Horizontal** – you personally forgive someone who has offended you.
 - **Vertical** – in your heart you forgive the offending party without confronting them.

Ephesians 4:32



And be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, just as God in
Christ forgave you.

χαρίζομαι

Be Kind



- **BE – gi,nomai** –[ginomai] present active imperative
To become something you were not previously.
- Present tense: keep on becoming
- Active voice: you must do it
- Imperative: command

KIND



- -- **crhsto,j** [chrestos] -- to be pleasant, kindly, gracious, not irritating

Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to Me, all *you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹ *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* ³⁰ *"For My yoke is **easy** and My burden is light."*

KIND



- This word means "easy to wear" like a yoke that would be put on oxen. It doesn't chafe, irritate, annoy. It doesn't rub you raw or make you sore.
- You are to keep on becoming like this. You aren't this way naturally; you need to work on this one. Keep on becoming kind, gracious.

KIND



- Don't be an irritation, rubbing people the wrong way, an annoyance. This word indicates that you are to be gracious to others - to exhibit grace in your life. Your manner of life is to be grace, your thinking is to be grace, your attitude is to be grace, your action toward others is to be grace. All of your thinking and doing should be grace in function.

TO ONE ANOTHER



- -- **avllh,lwn** [allelon]

reciprocal pronoun – indicating an action that is to go both ways.

TENDERHEARTED



- -- eu;splagcnoj [eusplagchnos] “healthy intestines” – to be compassionate. This is the opposite of being indifferent, callous, hard hearted.

Finally, all *of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous*
1 Peter 3:8:

FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER



-- cari,zomai [charizomai]

To give freely, graciously, pardon, forgive.

JUST AS



kaqw,j [kathos] adverb of comparison.

In the same way as.

GOD IN CHRIST



God the Father forgives us “in Christ”.

See Eph 1:7: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

ἄφεσις

FORGAVE YOU



cari,zomai [charizomai] Aorist middle indicative

- Aorist: it happened = faith in Christ
- Middle: It is for our benefit
- Indicative: reality of God's work

Ephesians 5:1



Therefore **be** imitators of God as dear children.

- **BE** – **gi,nomai** –[ginomai] present active imperative
To become something you were not previously.
- Present tense: keep on becoming
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Ephesians 5:1



Therefore be **imitators** of God as dear children.

- **Imitators**– μιμητής –[mimetes] An imitator

How can we imitate God?

By forgiving others!

HOW SHOULD WE FORGIVE?



- 1. From the heart (Matthew 18:35)
- 2. Completely (Psalms 103:12)
- 3. Remove reminders (Isaiah 38:17)
- 4. Show mercy, not anger (Micah 7:18-19)
- 5. Reaffirm love (2 Corinthians 2:7-8)

Forgive from the heart

Matthew 18:35



- So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, **from his heart**, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.

Forgive completely

Psalm 103:12



- As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Remove reminders

Isaiah 38:17



- ...For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

Show mercy, not anger

(Micah 7:18-19)



- 18 Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy.
- 19 He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Comfort and reaffirm love (2 Corinthians 2:7-8)



- 7 so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.
- 8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.

Fraternal Forgiveness – 2 types



Horizontal -- Luke 17:3-4 -- between you and the other person. This is a personal exchange.

Vertical -- Mark 11:25 – between you and God without the other person present.

Horizontal -- Luke 17:3-4



Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ And 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.

This is overt, a response to repentance --

Vertical Forgiveness -- Mark 11:25-26



And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive [him], that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

²⁶ "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.



This forgiveness is done while praying,
therefore by praying –

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand
praying, if you have anything against
anyone, forgive [him], that your Father
in heaven may also forgive you your
trespasses.

FORGIVE



- **avfi,hmi (aphiemi)**

to release from legal obligation;
divorce; cancel a debt = forgive

This forbids the nursing of grudges and criticism of the offender behind his back.

Different Actions Commanded



Forgive him (release the offender) --
Luke 17:3-4 to mend a broken
relationship

Forgive (release to God) -- Mark
11:25

Vertical Forgiveness



- Forgiveness is to release the person into the hands of God for judgment. This means that you have no personal vendetta against the person, but have given them to the only Judge, to the only One who can absolve them from their sins. When I forgive it means that you are out of my hands, and now I am free to give you my love and my patience.

Biblical Perspective:



- Forgiveness is a prerequisite to God's forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:21 ff.; Mark 11:25-26).
- Loving God and hating people are contradictory (1 John 4:20-21).
- Forgiveness in the heart should be granted before it is requested (Luke 23:34; Matthew 18:35).



- Forgiveness gives the offender what he needs rather than what he deserves (Lk 23:39-43; Ps 103:10; Ro 5:8). GRACE!
- Forgiveness is to be granted when requested without limitation (Luke 17:4; Mt 18:22).
- Forgiveness is an act of obedience, not feeling (Luke 17:5-10).

Forgive as God forgives us (Eph 4:32)



- He casts our sins behind Him (Isaiah 38:17) (removes reminders).
- He removes our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12) (complete removal).
- He forgives us when we confess our sins (1 John 1:9).

God forgives us



- It is an act of grace, unearned, undeserved by us.
- We are to forgive in the same way (grace).

Forgiveness is a promise to:



- Not dwell on the wrong done (1 Cor 13:5; Phil 3:13; 4:8)
- Promise not to bring it up in judgment:
 - 1) to the person
 - 2) to self
 - 3) to others

Forgiveness is a promise to:



- Not talk about the offense to others (Heb 10:17; Eph 4:29).
- Remove reminders of the wrong (Isa 38:17; 1 Kings 15:12)
- Reaffirm love for the offender (2 Cor 2:6-8).
- Not hold the offense against the person (definition).

Luke 17:3



Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Rebuke ἐπιτιμάω (**epitimaō**) to express strong disapproval of someone, rebuke, reprove, censure; also speak seriously, warn in order to prevent an action or bring one to an end.

Rebuke does not mean that you speak in anger, but that you tell the other person what they did that was wrong. Be sure that what they did was actually sinful, not just something that offended you.

Luke 17:3



Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Repent μετανοέω (metanoeō) to change the mind. In this instance, the repentance is an acknowledgment of wrong doing.

Luke 17:3



Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and

Forgive him ἀφίημι (aphiemi) to release from legal or moral obligation or consequence, cancel, remit, pardon

Luke 17:3



The goal here is to mend a broken relationship, to restore fellowship, to bring about reconciliation.

if he repents, forgive him



What if he doesn't acknowledge his wrongdoing?

- **You are still required to forgive!**

Luke 17:4-5



And 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.

And the apostles said to the Lord,
"Increase our faith."

Luke 17:6



- ⁶ So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Luke 17:7-8



⁷ And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat '?

⁸ But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink '?



⁹ "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

¹⁰ "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"



- Perhaps you need to forgive someone.
- Perhaps you need to give someone into the Lord's hands and let Him deal with the problem.
- Forgiving others is not an option in the Christian life, it is a command.

Summary



FORGIVENESS



Definition: To release from an offense; to pardon; remit; cancel an obligation.

Forgiving is "against (or opposite) giving" (old English) what one deserves when he has committed an offense.

This does not necessarily release the offender from all the consequences of his sin (2 Samuel 12:13-14; Num 14:19-20, 23; Col 3:25).

As a legal term it meant the cancellation of a debt or obligation.



Forgiveness is to release the person into the hands of God for judgment. This means that you have no personal vendetta against the person but have given them to the only Judge, to the only One who can absolve them from their sins.

When I forgive it means that you are out of my hands, and now I am free to give you my love and my patience.

Forgiveness is a Promise



- 1. Not to dwell on the wrong done
(1 Corinthians 13:5; Philippians 3:13; 4:8)
- 2. Not to bring it up in judgment
 - A. *to the person*
 - B. *to others*
 - C. *to self*
- 3. Promise not to remember against
(Hebrews 10:14-18)

Forgiveness is a promise to:



- Not talk about the offense to others (Heb 10:17; Eph 4:29).
- Remove reminders of the wrong (Isa 38:17; 1 Kings 15:12).

Biblical Perspective on forgiveness:



Forgiveness of others is a prerequisite to God's forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:21 ff.; Mark 11:25-26).

Loving God and hating people are contradictory (1 John 4:20-21).

Biblical Perspective on forgiveness:



Forgiveness in the heart should be granted before it is requested (Luke 23:34; Matthew 18:35).

Forgiveness gives the offender what he needs rather than what he deserves (Lk 23:39-43; Ps 103:10; Ro 5:8). GRACE!

Biblical Perspective on forgiveness:



Forgiveness is to be granted when requested (repentance is included) without limitation (Luke 17:4; Mt 18:22).

Forgiveness is an act of obedience, not feeling (Luke 17:5-10).



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