

## The Motive of Forgiveness

If you have ever heard the call to forgive as simple or easy, let us dispel that right now. It's not. We don't forgive because it is easy. We forgive because forgiveness is the path to life.

Scripture(s): 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

I. The first reason that Christians should forgive those who have failed them is \_\_\_\_\_ is not the goal. The call to forgive shows if we understand \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness. We cannot let retribution be where we live.

Matthew 18:22-35 Jesus \*said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 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. 26 "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' 27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' 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.' 30 "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 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. 32 "Then summoning him, his lord \*said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' 34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Romans 12:18-21 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 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. 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." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

✓ Examine your own \_\_\_\_\_ to see if you \_\_\_\_\_ people to "hurt as much as you do" or "feel what it's like to be hurt."

II. The second reason that Christians should forgive those who have failed them is \_\_\_\_\_ motivates us. Forgiveness happens because we live in love instead of judgment or \_\_\_\_\_.

Galatians 6:1-2 1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

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

✓ Cultivate love for the sinning person even while they have yet to \_\_\_\_\_.

III. The third reason that Christians should forgive those who have failed them is so that \_\_\_\_\_ won't win. Embracing forgiveness as a way of life is a tangible way that we acknowledge that there is an \_\_\_\_\_ who must not be allowed to destroy us.

2 Corinthians 11:3 & 14 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. & 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

✓ Decide today if you care if Satan has \_\_\_\_\_ in your life. If we care, we must \_\_\_\_\_. Remember this - Forgiveness is tough. However, it is \_\_\_\_\_. Not optional or even \_\_\_\_\_ important - essential!

May 24, 2020

"All Hail the Power of  
Jesus Name"

"Jesus! What a Friend for  
Sinners"

"One Thing Have I Desired"

\* Pastoral Prayer &  
Children's Sermon \*

"Your Name"