

benevolent responsibility family
ALTRUISM kindness divine intention
sincere selfless LOVE unconditional PURE
genuine peace TRUTH
SEEK merciful forgive compassion
release attitude
GRACE HONESTY
tenderness let go

The Blessing of Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12-15









God is ready to forgive

Psalm 86:5 For You, Lord, *are* good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

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.

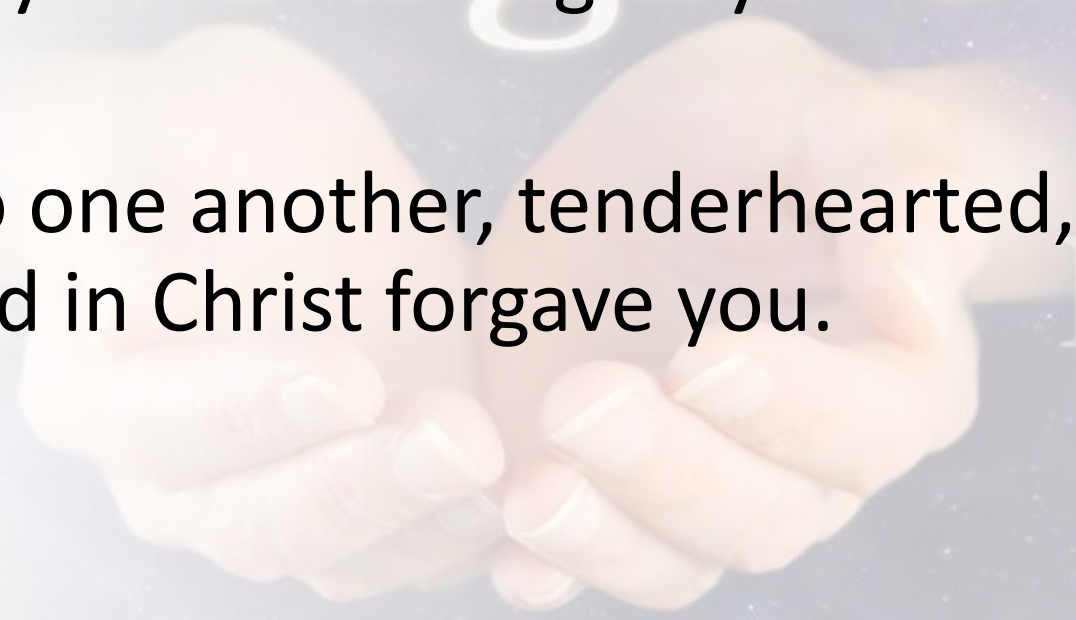
- God is ready to forgive (when we repent)
- Do I have to forgive before they ask?
- Automatically or when they ask?



Forgiveness in our Lives

Matt 6:14-15 “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.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

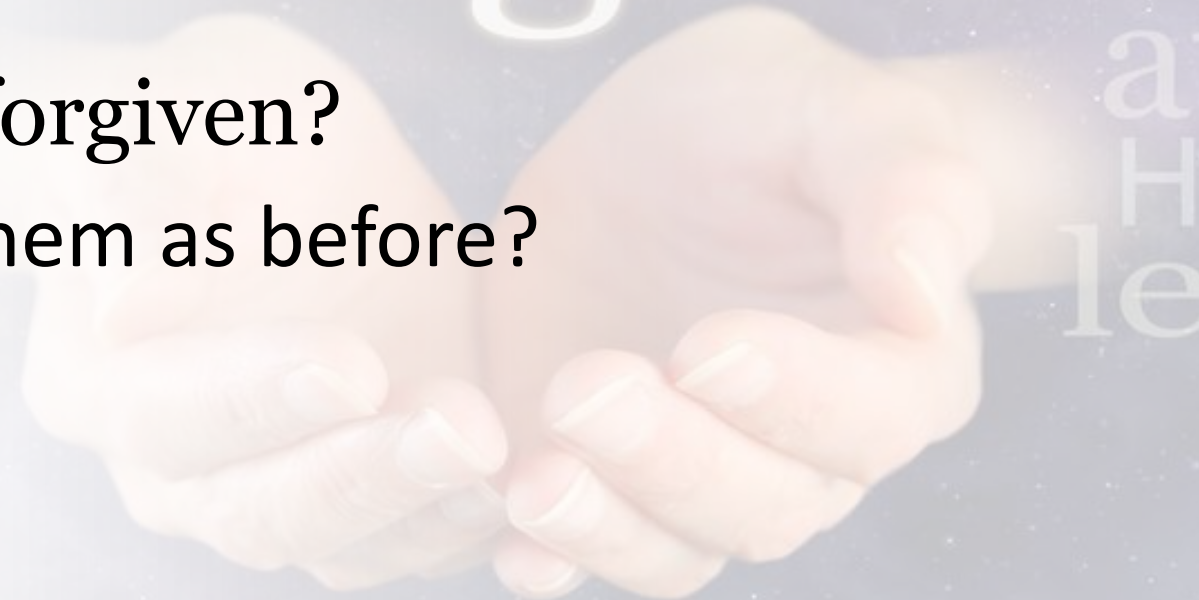


What is Forgiveness

Definition – an attitude of heart which restores the offender to the former state and affections of the the offended one

Test to know if you have truly forgiven?

- Do you feel as kindly toward them as before?
- Is the relationship restored?



When God forgives..how does He treat the one forgiven?

Psalm 103:10-12 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

David's sins were forgiven – Psalm 32, Psalm 51

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

The debt is remitted, canceled

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

- Forgiveness says “I am going to let go of the way I feel”
- But contingent on the other person repenting
- Col 3:13 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*. (Eph 4:32)

Two kinds of forgiveness

- Restore to former relationship (contingent on repentance)
- I'm not going to hold this against you (not based on repentance) .. we don't hold bitterness
 - Jesus on cross – “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do”
 - They were offered forgiveness – Acts 2:36-38 these same people had not been forgiven

Forgiven when we repent

- Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.
- Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.”
- 1 Cor 5:4-5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Questions..

- “I’ll forgive but I’ll never forget”
 - Usually indicates bitterness
 - Matt 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.”
 - Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” (Heb 10:17)

Jesus' standard

- Luke 17:3-5 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."
- 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?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.





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