

## TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGIVE... UH, WHAT Preparing for the End

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”  
Luke 6:36

### WHY FORGIVENESS IS SO IMPORTANT IN OUR LIFE:

#### First, to nullify a powerful Satanic advantage:

But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, (why) so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

#### Next, it is the heart of the Gospel:

Let all (inclusive) bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, (to what extent) just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

So, as those who have been (God’s part) chosen of God, holy and beloved, (our part) put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; (why) just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Colossians 3:12-13

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Luke 6:36

#### Then, it has personal, practical consequences:

“For (condition) if you forgive others for their transgressions, (result) your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But (condition) if you do not forgive others, then (result) your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

Matthew 6:14-15

### Finally, it is commanded by Christ for fellowship with Him:

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. Matthew 5:23-24

### QUESTION: WHAT DOES FORGIVENESS REALLY MEAN?

#### One, Forgiveness is not Forgetting.

“This is the covenant that I will make with them, after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them.” He then says, “And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

Hebrews 10:17

#### Two, Forgiveness is a choice, a crisis of the will. Since God requires us to forgive, it must be something we can do.

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.

Romans 12:19

#### Three, Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person’s sin.

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

### QUESTION: WHAT CAN WE DO?

Dear Heavenly Father. I thank You for the riches of Your kindness, forbearance, and patience knowing that Your kindness has led me to repentance (Rom. 2:4). I confess that I have not extended that same patience and kindness toward others who have hurt and offended me, but instead I have harbored bitterness and resentment. I pray that during this time of self-examination You would bring to my mind those people that I have not forgiven in order that I may do so (Matt. 18:35). I ask this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.