

“The Power of Forgiveness” (Luke 17:3-10)

KCCC 2025 English Retreat



**Why is it so
tough to
practice
forgiveness –
both to ask for
forgiveness and
to bless
someone with
forgiveness?**



Question to Ponder...

Standard of Forgiveness:

God's Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.*

Standard of Forgiveness:

God's Forgiveness

- Man's Greatest Need
- God's Greatest Gift
- ***Because God has forgiven us of ALL OUR SINS, we have the power AND responsibility to forgive EVERYONE who sins against us.***

Principles of Forgiveness:

1. When you are the one who sinned (Matthew 5:23-24)

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (ESV)

Principles of Forgiveness:

1. **When you are the one who sinned (Matthew 5:23-24)**

- Confess
- Repent
- Make Right
- Basically...Ask for Forgiveness!

Principles of Forgiveness:

1. When you are the one who sinned (Matthew 5:23-24)
2. When you are the one sinned against (Luke 17:3-10)

³ Pay attention to yourselves!

“If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

⁶ And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

Luke 17:3-10 (ESV)

⁷ "Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'?

⁸ Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'?

⁹ Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded?

¹⁰ *So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'*"

Luke 17:3-10 (ESV)

Principles of Forgiveness:

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2. **When you are the one sinned against (Luke 17:3-10)**
 - Difficulty #1: "If your brother sins, rebuke him."

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Luke 17:3-10

Principles of Forgiveness:

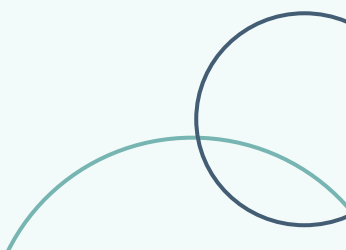
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- Difficulty #1: "If your brother sins, rebuke him."
- Difficulty #2: "If he repents, forgive him."

Forgiveness means:

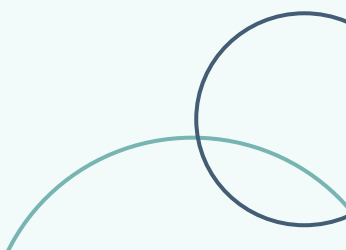
"Concealing debt, removing guilt, and promising that you will *never again* bring up the offences to *use against* the other person."

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Forgiveness means:

“Concealing debt, removing guilt, and promising that you will *never again* bring up the offences to *use against* the other person.”

“Forgiveness is the willingness to release another person from his/her debt to us, for hurts that may have been caused, to clear the record, promising never to bring the matter up again.”

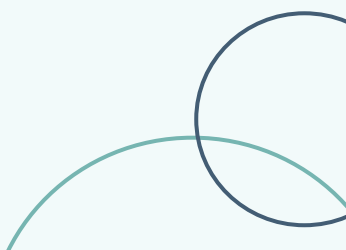
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Heart forgiveness includes identifying with the wrongdoer, inwardly paying the debt, and then willing good for the wrongdoer. (Keller)

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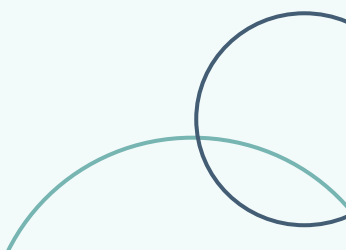
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- Forgiveness = Reconciliation

Forgiveness vs. Reconciliation

“There are not two kinds of forgiveness but two aspects or stages of it. One could say that the first must always happen, and the second may happen but is not always possible. **Attitudinal forgiveness can occur without reconciliation, but reconciliation cannot happen unless attitudinal forgiveness has already occurred.**”

Keller, Timothy. *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?*

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Forgiveness is a decision to release the person who harmed you.

Forgiveness involves a change in thinking about the offender.

Reconciliation requires the involvement of two persons.

Reconciliation is the effort to rejoin to the person who harmed you.

Reconciliation involves a change in behavior by the offender.

Differences between Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Forgiveness is a gift to the one who has broken trust.

Reconciliation is a restored relationship based on trust.



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Forgiveness is a gift to the one who has broken trust.

Forgiveness is extended even if it is never earned.

Reconciliation is a restored relationship based on trust.

Reconciliation is offered to the offender because it has been earned.

Recommended Books

Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I? by Tim Keller
From Forgiven to Forgiving by Jay Adams.

The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness by John MacArthur

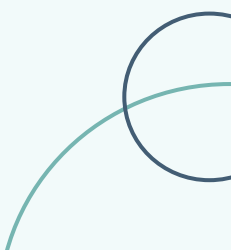
The Peacemaker by Ken Sande





*“But I love that phrase of the calling to entrust those things to the Lord, to know that there's another character in this story, that's not just between me and the offender, or even me as the offender and them as the one who was hurt. **There's a third character in all of this who is God, and He's the One who is trustworthy for these burdens and these injustices and He is the vindicator.** He's the One who pursues what is right and what is good, and we can truly trust Him for that so that we don't feel like it's all up to us to ensure that that justice plays out.”*

Esther Liu (CCEF)



Youtube clip from "The Chosen":

"Peter Forgives Matthew: Matthew 18:21-22



The Power of **Forgiveness**



*Because God has powerfully
forgiven us of **ALL OUR
SINS**, we have the power
and responsibility to forgive
EVERYONE who sins
against us.*

What will you do in RESPONSE to this truth?

1. As you ponder God's forgiveness towards you, what aspects of it personally touch you the most deeply?
2. How can an unwillingness to forgive make us victims? How might a "victim mentality" affect our ability to respond to circumstances?
3. What is your biggest challenge when it comes to "rebuking others" to let them know they have hurt you?
4. What is your biggest challenge when it comes to asking another person to forgive you?

Discussion Questions

