

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

1. Because of the death of Jesus, the perfect sacrificial Lamb of God
- the penalty of my sin was paid in full
 - the guilt incurred by my sin was removed
 - there is no condemnation, I am no longer subject to punishment

→ God graciously forgave/forgives me

- He does not hold my sins against me
- He lets them go as if I never did them
- He does not call them to mind or ever mention them again

2. I am exhorted to forgive others just as God has forgiven me: freely, eagerly, joyfully, kindly, tender-heartedly and generously
(Eph 4:32; Col 3:12-13; Rom 8:32; Mt 18:21-22)
3. Since my Father faithfully forgives the sins I do as His child, I am expected to be prepared to forgive those who sin against me (Mt 6:9-13)
4. Forgiveness is not a feeling!
It is an act of my will to choose to:
- lay down the right to self-pity and anger
 - let go of the need to make my offender pay
 - not bring up the offense in the future
 - not talk to others about it
 - not let the offense hinder a reconciliation
 - not continue to dwell on the offense myself

5. If I am going to forgive those who sin against me, I must keep my focus on the cross
(Col 2:13-14)
6. If I refuse to forgive another, I reveal that in my heart I believe that a sin committed against me is worse or more serious than the countless sins I have committed against a holy God
(Mt 18:23-35)
7. If I refuse to forgive I am guilty of not believing God's promise to see to the justice of the matter Himself. (Rom 12:19; Prov 20:22; Heb 10:30)
8. If I refuse to forgive Satan is given an advantage and an opportunity to act
(2 Cor 2:7-11; Eph 4:26-27)
9. If I do not forgive, neither will my heavenly Father forgive me my transgressions
- I am saved but I'm choosing to sin
- this produces hatred, anger & retribution
 - bitterness can take root and defile me
- my ongoing refusal to forgive may be an indication that I have never been forgiven
(Mt 18:35; Mt 6:14-15; Mk 11:25-26; 1 Jn 1:9; Heb 12:15)
10. Forgiveness, although it may be difficult, is obedience and it imparts blessings to the offender and also especially to the forgiver

11. Forgiveness subdues pride and my wounded ego and chooses to follow the example of God, the ultimate and perfect forgiver
12. Forgiveness forces me to put to death the self-focused attitudes of the flesh and replace them with the godly fruit of the Spirit
(Gal 5:19-24; Rom 8:12-13)
13. If I choose to forgive I have an opportunity to show mercy since abundant mercy has been shown to me
(Ps 145:8; Lk 6:36)
14. If I choose to forgive the joy that sin always destroys will be restored
(Ps 51:12 & 14)
15. If I choose to forgive I have an opportunity to affirm love for my brother or sister and love for my God who commands me to forgive
(1 Jn 3:10, 4:20; 5:3; Jn 14:15)
16. I will forgive anything when I remember that everything that happens to me, including the offense, is orchestrated by my sovereign Lord for my good and His glorious purposes
(Ps 138:8; Rom 8:28; Phil 1:6)
17. Being able to forgive anyone anything from the heart, is confirmation that I have truly been saved and transformed