

FAMILY FORGIVENESS

Extreme Makeover...Family Edition (Part 2)

²⁵ *“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.”*

Mark 11:25 (NASB)

“... forgive, and you will be forgiven;” Luke 6:37 (ESV)

¹² *“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

Matthew 6:12 (NASB)

Forgiveness is a decision to release a person from the obligation that resulted when they injured you.

I. WHEN FAMILIES DON'T FORGIVE.

²¹ *Then Peter came and said to Him, ‘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.’* 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.”* Matthew 18:21-35 (NASB)

A. The RATIONALIZATIONS for not forgiving are foolish:

- 1. The hurt is too big.**
- 2. Time will heal it.**
- 3. I’m going to forgive when they say I’m sorry.**
- 4. I can’t forgive if I can’t forget.**
- 5. If I forgive, they will just do it again.**

B. The FALLOUT is huge.

C. The CONSEQUENCES are lasting:

*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.’”
Matthew 18:34-35 (NASB)*

- 1. Unforgiveness is torturous in this life.**
- 2. External consequences**

⁴³ For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy;” James 2:13 (NASB)

“Unforgiveness is cancer of the family.”

II. WHEN FAMILIES DO FORGIVE.

³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:31-32 (NASB)

A. Three Things Forgiveness is Not:

- 1. Forgiveness is not enabling.**
- 2. Forgiveness is not rescuing.**
- 3. Forgiveness is not risking.**

B. Two Aspects of Forgiveness:

- 1. Crisis**
- 2. The Process**
 - a. I won’t bring it up to you.**
 - b. I won’t bring it up to others.**
 - c. I won’t bring it up to myself.**

C. How will I know when I’ve forgiven?

- 1. My damaged emotions are eliminated.**
- 2. My healing efforts are renewed.**

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

- 3. My healing attitudes are restored.**

**“There are NO enduring relationships
without forgiveness.”**