



## How to Forgive

1. Forgive those who know and admit they have sinned and want forgiveness.
2. Is it wrong to correct those who sin?
  - a. Not if you correct in love to bring them to repentance.
  - b. If a man is overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual restore the one (Galatians 6:1).
  - c. Judge the sin and not the person (1 Corinthians 2:15).

## Twice Forgiven

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.***

***Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”*** (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

1. God corporately judged the sins of all mankind, reconciling the world at the cross.
  - a. He forgave from His heart.
  - b. On His side, the war is over.
2. It becomes individual, personal when we repent to God, face to face, accepting Jesus.
  - a. When we repent, we receive the forgiveness God gave me at the cross.
  - b. For us, the war is over.
3. If we do not repent, damnation is our choice. God is free of our blood.
4. There are two types of forgiveness we give:
  - a. From our heart to God, releases us.
  - b. Personally, to their face when they repent.

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

1. We are to forgive those who sin against us.
2. God is our example of how we are to forgive.

## What to do About Our Enemies

***“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...”*** (Matthew 5:44)

1. Four things we are to do for our enemies:
  - a. Love
  - b. Bless
  - c. Do Good
  - d. Pray
2. The word does not say to forgive them.
  - a. You can forgive them before God.
  - b. If they repent, you can forgive them to their face.

***“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*** (John 1:17)

1. We often are so grace-minded we ignore the truth.
  - a. Without the truth grace and freedom have no boundaries.
  - b. Laws are the boundaries of our freedoms.
2. Are we to forgive our enemies? Of course.
3. Although, forgiveness is available, it is only given at certain times.

#### **Should We Openly Forgive Everyone Who Wrongs Us?**

1. Does scripture teach us in all circumstances we must always forgive? NO
2. Does God individually forgive all sinners? NO
  - a. It is offered, but the sinner must repent.
3. Two types of forgiveness toward others:
  - a. From our heart toward God. We are free.
  - b. From our lips toward men, face to face. Restoration can begin then.

#### **Conditions Required for Us to Forgive**

***“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 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.”*** (Luke 17:3-4)

1. The one who has offended must first repent.
  - a. He must judge himself for his wrong.
  - b. He must give evidence of sorrow over it.
2. What if the offender does not repent?

- a. We are to openly forgive him.
  - b. To openly forgive without repentance gives the appearance of condoning the sin.
3. What should our attitude be toward those if they do not repent?
- a. Forgive them toward God in your heart.
  - b. Do not hold evil feelings against them.
  - c. There must not be any hatred or malice.
  - d. Yet, the offender must not be treated as if they did nothing wrong. That would condone the offence.

**Does God Ever Openly Forgive Where There is No Repentance? NO**

1. At the cross God forgave the world from His heart.
2. But does God individually forgive sinners without them repenting? NO  
(Acts 2:38, Acts 26:18)
3. Does God forgive Christian without repentance? NO (1 John 1:9, Revelation 3:19-20)

**Keeping Unforgiveness Will Destroy You**

1. You must be free from bitterness, a desire for revenge, wishing evil, or speaking slander.
2. When you have forgiven them from your heart toward God you can:
  - a. Love them
  - b. Bless them
  - c. Do good to them
  - d. Pray for them