



Gods glory revealed in his mercy and forgiveness is one of the major themes of the Bible

**JESUS' TEACHING ON:**

- **KNOW YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ DEBT - Luke 7**

How big is your debt?

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- **Christlike Forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive – Luke 15**

VERY SPECIFICALLY think of all the reasons the father had to be angry and bitter with his son?

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What were the reasons the father showed love, compassion and forgiveness?

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- **We can \_\_\_\_\_ forgive more than we have been forgiven – Matt 18**

Why would someone forgiven an UNPAYABLE ten lifetimes of debt be so cruel right away to someone who owes him a few weeks of debt?

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- We must be \_\_\_\_\_ to offend.

Our natural reaction to things we don't like is to assume the worst and be very offended. This is a clear sign of pride ... that we feel we are being treated in a way that is not fair or deserved –

- Jam 1:19-22
- EPH 4:24,26,29-31

- We must be \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive. (Over and over) –

- Luke 17:3
- Luke 15:20
- Mat 5:21-24

Let's be honest ... we often feel that others deserve forgiveness ONLY if they are truly “worthy” of it in some way. In what way were we “worthy” of God's forgiveness at all? What will it take for you to have this kind of forgiveness? What needs to change in your thinking?

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- Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation –

- EPH 4:24-32

There is SO much about anger in this passage. What does that have to do with forgiveness?

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There is SO much about SPEECH and words in this passage. What does that have to do with forgiveness?

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• **Forgiveness from God \_\_\_\_\_ us to forgive others –**

- **Matthew 6:12-15**
- **Mark 11:25**
- **Luke 6:37**

What can we do to be more convinced and controlled by the fact that we too are HORRIFIC sinners and have been forgiven so much more than could ever be done to us?

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I think this issue is best summed up by John Piper's comment: "If we think we can be indwelt by the Spirit of Christ and not make war on that attitude (*of not forgiving / holding grudges*), we are deluded."<sup>1</sup>

## Compelling motives for forgiveness – John MacArthur

1. Forgiveness is the most \_\_\_\_\_ act a person can do - Ephesians 4:32 / 5:1.

LACK OF FORGIVENESS IS SIMPLE PRIDE AND \_\_\_\_\_ - *Lack of forgiveness is SELFISHNESS. It is an undeserved affection for yourself that makes you aggravate the faults of others who offend you ... Proud self-esteeming ego is easily angered and usually unforgiving because it thinks so highly of itself and then so hatefully of any who offend – John MacArthur*

- the reason you're so mad is because you have an \_\_\_\_\_ opinion of yourself
- be humble enough that no offense against you is worthy of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. It is not \_\_\_\_\_ only that is forbidden by the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment... - Matthew 5:21-22

3. You must remember that whoever has offended you has offended God \_\_\_\_\_ - Psalm 51:1-4 / Psalm 41:4 / MATTHEW 18:21-35

4. God who is so \_\_\_\_\_ offended forgives so readily. It is only reasonable that those forgiven the greater sins should forgive the lesser sins. - Matt 18:

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper, "If I Fail to Forgive Others, Will God Not Forgive Me?", Desiringgod.org. <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/if-i-fail-to-forgive-others-will-god-not-forgive-me>

5. The one who does not forgive will not enjoy the love of other Christians (lack of forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_ my participation in the body of Christ) - Hebrews 10:24
6. Failure to forgive results in divine \_\_\_\_\_ - Hebrews 12:6 / James 2:13 / Matthew 5:7
7. The one who does not forgive will not be \_\_\_\_\_ - Matthew 6:15 / Matthew 18:35 / Matthew 6:12 / Luke 11:4
8. The absence of forgiveness renders us unfit to \_\_\_\_\_ - Isaiah 1 / Matthew 5:21-24 / Ps 66:18-19
9. Not to forgive is to usurp the \_\_\_\_\_ of God - Genesis 50:19-20 / Romans 12:14-19
10. Offences against you are your \_\_\_\_\_ ... and by those trials God is perfecting you - James 1:2-4 / Romans 5:3-5

## Failure to forgive is a blatant sin... No discussion

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**1 John 5:3** Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.

### WHY DON'T WE FORGIVE? <sup>2</sup>

*Holding onto the other's wrongs gives us the upper hand in our relationship. We keep a record of wrongs because we are not motivated by what honors God and is best for others but by what is expedient for ourselves. – Tripp*

1 **Debt is** \_\_\_\_\_. There is power in having something to hold over another's head. **We don't forgive because we want to use their failures \_\_\_\_\_ them**

2 **Debt is** \_\_\_\_\_. Holding onto another's sin, weakness, and failure makes us feel superior to them.

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<sup>2</sup> Paul Tripp <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-benefits-of-unforgiveness-then-the-better-way>

We don't forgive because it makes us feel better or more \_\_\_\_\_ than them

3 Debt is \_\_\_\_\_. Because of all the other person's wrongs against us, he or she owes us.

We don't forgive because it makes me feel I \_\_\_\_\_ to feel self-focused

4 Debt is \_\_\_\_\_. When someone has hurt us in some way, it is very tempting to hurt them back by throwing in their face just how evil and immature they are.

We don't forgive because we want to \_\_\_\_\_ them back

5 Debt puts us in \_\_\_\_\_ position. We are not the one who should dispense consequences for other's sin. It is not our job to make sure they feel the appropriate amount of guilt for what they have done.

We don't forgive because we don't \_\_\_\_\_ God to get revenge

Where forgiveness exists. Relationships last. Quick and easy forgiveness.

We are never more like God than when we forgive

We are never more like Christ than when we carry the debt so forgiveness can happen

- John MacArthur

#### EXAMPLES:

- Adam and Eve
- Joseph – Genesis 45
- Christ