Forgiven to Forgive

Greg Kline · Colossians 3:12–15

INTRODUCTION

- Consider something that is very simple but not easy.
- The idea of a free throw is really simple. You stand up, X amount of feet, it always stays the same.
- We have been forgiven in a sense to forgive others.

1 The Clear Importance of Forgiving Others

Micah 7:18–19; Romans 5:6–10; Matthew 6:9–15

- If anyone has a complaint against another, what are we to do? Forgive each other as the Lord has forgiven you.
- Jesus died for us when we were weak and ungodly, when we were sinners and when we were enemies of God.
- Our eternal life actually does literally hang in the balance of how we forgive others.
- At our worst, we were forgiven, and completely were we forgiven by our great and merciful God. And that's how we must forgive.

2 Bitterness and Resentment

Ephesians 4:31–32; Matthew 18:15–17

- Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you along with all malice.
- The truth is we don't forgive because we don't want to.
- If your brother sins against you, here's that situation. Go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
- There is no room for bitterness because if we're doing what Jesus says, there is no time for bitterness and resentment to step in.

3 Taking Personal Vengeance

Romans 12:17–21; Hebrews 10:26–31

- Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God.
- The problem with forgiving others is I want to make it right because I want my pound of flesh back.
- I lose my forgiveness. I lose my relationship with others, and I lose my relationship with God. There is no winner in taking personal vengeance in this life.
- If we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.

4 Pride Is Difficult

Proverbs 18:17

- The one who states his case first seems right until the other comes and examines him.
- You know who we hear first in matters of forgiveness? My story.
- I need to be willing to listen to the whole story, and most importantly, I need to be forgiving and let God be the judge and stop trying to take his place.
- Bitterness doesn't feel bad to the person who wronged you.

5 Recognize the Stakes

Matthew 18:15–17; 1 Corinthians 5

- Why would you make him unto you a Gentile? Because his soul is valuable.
- The whole idea of withdrawal is not about pointing out sin and being mean. It's about the soul.
- We need to remember the stakes of our forgiving others is the same stakes upon which I am forgiven by God.

6 We Just Need to Be a Christian

Colossians 3:5; Colossians 3:12–15

- If we do not forgive others, we are not being Christians. We are not being followers of Christ.
- You either address the sin or you turn your back on God. Those are the options.
- Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony, and that the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
- That is God's answer to an unforgiving heart.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would I want to be forgiven by God the way that I forgive others?**

MY NOTES