

If we could spiritually see people, we would see the chains that tie them down. If someone says just the wrong thing, we jerk in reaction, reacting to when someone else said the same thing, and it hurt us. The world says, "Time heals all wounds." Is this true?

Matthew 5:38-42

What attitude does "eye for eye" reveal?

What attitude does "turn the other cheek" show?

"Jesus stresses the need to decisively break the natural chain of evil action and reaction that characterizes human relationships." Craig Blomberg

Instead of retaliation, what does Jesus challenge us to do?

How can we do that? Won't people take advantage of us?

Matthew 5:43-48

How can we "Love your Enemies"?

Matthew 6:9-15

How does Jesus say we should ask for forgiveness from God?

How could God tie HIS forgiving us to OUR forgiving others?
What do they have to do with each other?

Why don't we let go of our anger against others?

Luke 17:3-4

Why would Jesus want us to forgive this often?

What if he doesn't ASK for forgiveness?

What if someone is convicted of a crime, then repents and asks for forgiveness?
Should we forgive? Should we continue to prosecute? Why or why not?

What does **Ephesians 4:29-32** say about this?

DEFINITION OF "FORGIVE"

aphiemi {af-ee'-ay-mee} The root word is used more as "leave, permit" than "forgive".

to send away, to send forth, yield up, to expire
to let go, let alone, let be

to disregard, to omit
to let go, give up a debt, to remit
to give up, keep no longer
to permit, allow, not to hinder, to give up a thing to a person

to leave, go away from
to depart from - so that all claims are abandoned
to go away leaving something behind

From the definition of FORGIVE, what is wrong with the often spoken idea, "I'll forgive, but I won't forget"?

Explain how forgiving someone can be freeing to you.

What does Real Forgiveness Look like? Look at God's forgiveness of us:

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Micah 7:19 You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins
underfoot and hurl all our **iniquities** into the depths of the **sea**.

Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and
remembers your **sins** no more.

Jeremiah 31:34 "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins
no more."

Matthew 18:21-35

How can God's forgiveness of YOU help you forgive OTHERS?

Have you let God help you forgive others?

God wants to help us deal with angry feelings, resentment, etc.

Asking God to help you forgive opens the door to God's healing work in your heart and life.

Often to begin to clear blocks in relationships, WE need to ask for forgiveness from another.

Matthew 5:23-24

Who's responsibility is it to seek to restore a broken relationship?

When should we seek reconciliation?

Ask God to search through your relationships.

Is there anyone who I have not forgiven?

Against whom I am holding a grudge, or harboured anger?

Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, Neighbour, Co-worker, Pastor, Old Friend?

You can forgive in your heart, even if they haven't asked.

RIGHT WITH GOD AND RIGHT WITH MAN

We must confess to God first, but then need to confess to those we have wronged, and right those wrong relationships.

What does Romans 12:18 say about this?

HOW TO CONFESS TO OTHERS:

1. Circle of Confession should be no greater than the Circle of Offense.
2. Generally, confess only Actions and Words, NOT thoughts.
An exception to this may be hurtful thoughts about your spouse.
3. Confess one to one, in person. The next best way would be by phone.
Do NOT document sin in a letter. The ideal is for sin to be confessed, forgiven by the other party, and forgotten. We don't need a written record lying around.
4. Say, "I was wrong when I _____. Please forgive me."
5. Do NOT "I'm sorry, but you made me angry..."
This only blames the other person for your actions.
6. Confess only your part in the problem. In most relationship problems, both parties are partially at fault. Confess your sin, whether the other person was wrong at all or confesses at all.
7. Ask the other person to forgive you, and to SAY they forgive you.
Recognize the healing power of hearing, "I forgive you."
8. Even if other person won't forgive when you ask,
say, "I hope you can forgive me some day."
You have done your part to gain a clear conscience and restore the relationship.
9. Remember that forgiveness isn't earned.
We'd rather Earn it. "I'll make it up to you," we would rather say.

Forgiveness must be freely given.
That's part of the reason why we don't like asking.
10. Commit to God to confess to the people to whom He is leading you to confess.
Do it ASAP, starting with the hardest one to confess to first.

If God is prompting you to confess,
you can be sure that God has been preparing them.

Don't talk yourself out of it thinking, "It is only trivial."
What does Song of Songs 2:15 say about this?

Ask to see sin from God's point of view, not the world's.
We might think that it is "Better to forget the whole thing."
Really, it is better to get out in open, confess, and receive forgiveness.
Then you and the relationship can heal.