



In research for the book, "When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense" by Robert Jeffress, five questions concerning forgiveness were asked.

"The study's findings further suggest that most born-again Christians probably do not practice biblical forgiveness because they do not understand what it is."

In Scripture, we are called to forgive. In fact, our personal forgiveness is dependent upon us forgiving others. The Struggle is Real. Even though it is difficult, Forgiveness is a significant issue in our walk with the Lord. The Bible teaches that You must forgive or you will not be forgiven.

As we seek to Biblically think about forgiveness and our responsibility to forgive, there a lot of questions. After all, relationships can be messy and very complicated. Some of us may have a wrong understanding of what true forgiveness is. So the question arises...

## II. What is Forgiveness ?

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission [to pass over] of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

A. Consider some Misconceptions (wrong ideas) about forgiveness.

3. Forgiveness is a Feeling.

4. Forgiveness is Forgetting.

You will often hear the phrase "Forgive and forget."

Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Forgiveness does not demand forgetting.

Question: But doesn't God promise to forget our sin?

Jeremiah 31:34b for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

The Hebrew word that is used in Jeremiah 31:34 has the idea of "name or mention." When God forgives our sin, He is refusing to name or mention them again.

B. Consider the Right Perception of forgiveness.

1. Forgiveness is a promise to release someone from the penalty of the offense.

2. Forgiveness is a promise not raise the offense unnecessarily.

## II. What if I refuse to Forgive?

A. God will not forgive you.

Mark 11: 25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

B. God will chasten you.

Matthew 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

## III. How can I Forgive?

There is One who suffered more than you ever will.

A. You must Treasure Jesus Christ!

Matthew 18:25-28, 32-33

2 Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

B. You must Reconcile your relationship with God and others.

Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

You may need to get some relationships right tonight. The Lord commands it. Is there someone that you need to forgive, to release their real sin or even perceived sin. Your fellowship with God depends on it.

You must forgive or you will not be forgiven.