



Part 7

Called to Let Go of Unforgiveness

Matthew 18:21

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked,
“Lord, how many times shall I forgive
my brother or sister who sins against
me? Up to seven times?”

Matthew 18:22

“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied,
“but seventy times seven!”

Matthew 18:23

Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.

Matthew 18:24

In the process, one of his debtors
was brought in who owed him
millions of dollars.

Matthew 18:25

He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

Matthew 18:26

But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.'

Matthew 18:27

Then his master was filled with pity
for him, and he released him and
forgave his debt.

Matthew 18:28

But when the man left the king,
he went to a fellow servant who
owed him a few thousand dollars.

He grabbed him by the throat
and demanded instant payment.

Matthew 18:29

His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded.

Matthew 18:30

But his creditor wouldn't wait.
He had the man arrested and
put in prison until the debt
could be paid in full.

Matthew 18:31

When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.

Matthew 18:32

Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.'

Matthew 18:33

Shouldn't you have mercy on your
fellow servant, just as I had
mercy on you?'

Matthew 18:34

Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

Matthew 18:35

That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

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Principle #1

God's forgiveness is perfect in that it is both gracious and merciful, and it is available to all who ask.

GRACE is receiving something that we do not deserve. **MERCY** is not receiving exactly what we deserve.

Principle #1

God's forgiveness is perfect in that it is both gracious and merciful, and it is available to all who ask.

Forgiveness is NOT

- Ignoring, hiding, or condoning an offense, sin, or injustice.
- About positioning yourself to be abused, hurt, or taken advantage of.

Forgiveness is NOT

- **Something that you will initially or always feel joyous about.**
- **Something you can do with a cold soul.**
- **Something that expresses itself cruelly.**

Forgiveness is NOT

- **Something you must feel.**
- **Something that is genuine simply because one says the words.**
- **Something that guarantees restoration or reconciliation.**

Forgiveness is NOT

- **A free pass from consequences or prosecution.**
- **Something that requires the offender to ask for it.**
- **Something the offender deserves.**

Forgiveness *Defined*

The intentional decision to cancel a legitimate debt and to let go of any negativity or ill will that is clearly caused by the legitimate offense or harmful act.

Principle #1

God's forgiveness is perfect in that it is both gracious and merciful, and it is available to all who ask.

Principle #2

If you cannot truly forgive your family members who love you but also hurt you, odds are that you will never experience the kind of joy and freedom that Christ died to give you.

Matthew 18:21

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked,
“Lord, how many times shall I forgive
my brother or sister who sins against
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Matthew 18:22

**“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied,
“but seventy times seven!”**

Principle #2

If you cannot truly forgive your family members who love you but also hurt you, odds are that you will never experience the kind of joy and freedom that Christ died to give you.

In a perfect world, your family and your home are supposed to be your safe havens. They are supposed to be the sanctuaries of love, joy, goodness, grace, and acceptance.

**But the problem is that we do not
live in a perfect world...**

Our earthly homes (as good as they can be at times) are also the place where the ugliest and most destructive thoughts and emotions are experienced.

It is in our earthly homes that we participate in seemingly endless conflicts and crises. To make it even worse, all of these things are concentrated and mixed together as if they were over high heat in a pressure cooker.

Principle #2

If you cannot truly forgive your family members who love you but also hurt you, odds are that you will never experience the kind of joy and freedom that Christ died to give you.

When You Don't Forgive

You inevitably lock yourself into a prison of your own fears, mistrust, rejection, and pain; all of which will contaminate every other relationship you ever have.

When You Don't Forgive

You self-sabotage the natural growth process of becoming an emotionally and spiritually healthy adult; making yourself forever the unloved one, the mistreated child, and forever the victim.

Principle #2

If you cannot truly forgive your family members who love you but also hurt you, odds are that you will never experience the kind of joy and freedom that Christ died to give you.

Principle #3

A Holy Spirit led transformation of the heart inevitably produces a radically changed life that is able to gladly give the same mercy and the same grace to others that one has received from God.

Matthew 18:35

That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.

Principle #3

A Holy Spirit led transformation of the heart inevitably produces a radically changed life that is able to gladly give the same mercy and the same grace to others that one has received from God.

Principle #4

**In the Kingdom of God,
unforgiveness is a spiritual,
emotional, mental, and
physical disorder.**

Disorder *Defined*

An illness that disrupts normal functions. A disorder is a set of problems, which result in causing significant difficulty, distress, impairment and suffering in a person's daily life.

Matthew 18:32

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Matthew 18:33

Shouldn't you have mercy on your
fellow servant, just as I had
mercy on you?'

Matthew 18:34

Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

Principle #4

**In the Kingdom of God,
unforgiveness is a spiritual,
emotional, mental, and
physical disorder.**

**Unforgiveness hinders our mind,
body, and soul's ability to heal.
Many people ruin their health and
their lives by constantly drinking
from the poison of bitterness,
resentment, and unforgiveness.**

It is torturous to have hateful thoughts toward another person rolling around inside your head, mind, and heart. Unforgiveness is equivalent to allowing yourself to be tortured daily, while expecting the other person to die from it.

Principle #4

**In the Kingdom of God,
unforgiveness is a spiritual,
emotional, mental, and
physical disorder.**

Principle #5

**Unforgiveness negatively affects
your relationship with God.**

Matthew 6:14

If you forgive those who sin
against you, your heavenly Father
will forgive you.

Matthew 6:15

**But if you refuse to forgive others,
your Father will not forgive your sins.**

Mark 11:24

I tell you, you can pray for anything,
and if you believe that you've
received it, it will be yours.

Mark 11:25

But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

Principle #5

**Unforgiveness negatively affects
your relationship with God.**

Principle #6

Don't ever forget that you also need to be forgiven for things you know about, things you have forgotten, and things you don't even know about yet.

Principle #7

Forgiving our parents is one of the most crucial and essential aspects of being a spiritually healthy and emotionally healthy Christian.

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