

Title: Forgiveness
Pastor: Francois Brink
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a) Definition of forgiveness

To grant free pardon or remission of any offense or debt; to give up all claim.

b) 5 keys to walk in forgiveness

1. Forgiveness is a command not a suggestion

Matt 6:14-15

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵ "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Prov 19:11

The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression.

Prov 24:29

Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

We must forgive to be forgiven

Matt 7:2

For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Matt 18:35

This is how my heavenly Father will threaten each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart. (to be handed over to the torturers)

Mark 11:25

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Col 3:12-13

¹² Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

James 2:13

Because judgement without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgement!

2. There is no limit to forgiveness

Matt 18:21-22

²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

We should learn to forgive as God forgives.

1 Cor 13:5

Love keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Pet 4:8

Love covers a multitude of sins.

Ps 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

3. Unforgiveness holds us in bondage.

- It prevents the forgiveness from the Father.
- It opens up the door to physical and mental illness and demonic strongholds Vs. 34 He was delivered to the torturers.
- It can limit or even cut off blessings in our life.

Matt 18:23-35

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ "And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ "But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ "The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' ²⁷ "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' ²⁹ "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' ³⁰ "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ "So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³² "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' ³⁴ "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵ "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

4. Forgiveness is an act of faith

- Not a feeling but a decision. It is continual (past, present and future)
- It is of the spirit - not the flesh, not the soul.
- You must be able to see your offender as a living spirit, not an enemy,

5. Reconciliation is always the answer

Rom 12:14-18

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.