

Love Does Lifestyle

“Love Does Forgiveness: Keys to Forgiving those Who have Hurt You”

Greg Wendschlag August 6, 2017

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Mt. 6:14-15

FORGIVENESS QUIZ

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| A person should not be forgiven until he asks for it. | T F |
| Forgiving includes minimizing the offense & the pain caused. | T F |
| Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reuniting a relationship. | T F |
| You haven't really forgiven until you've forgotten the offense. | T F |
| When I see someone hurt, it is my duty to forgive the offender. | T F |

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS *NOT*

1. Forgiveness is not **conditional**.
2. Forgiveness is not **minimizing** the seriousness of the offense.
3. Forgiveness is not **resuming** a relationship without changes.

Necessary steps to rebuilding trust:

1. Demonstrate genuine **repentance**
 2. Make **restitution** when possible for the damage done
 3. The offender must **rebuild trust** over time by proving they have changed
4. Forgiveness is not **forgetting** what happened.

WHAT IS GENUINE FORGIVENESS?

Forgiveness is: Releasing a person from my personal judgment.

1. Relinquishing my right to get even.

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Rom 12:18-21

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." Heb. 12:15-16

2. Responding to evil with good.

"...do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28

3. Repeating the process as often as is necessary.

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Matt 18:21-22

The Secret of Forgiveness

Remember that the Lord forgave you.

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Col 3:13

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Eph. 4:32

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross." Col 2:13-14