

## Understanding forgiveness deeper

Text: Ephesians 4:24-32, Colossians 3:13-15

1. Understanding forgiveness
  - a. Defining real forgiveness
  - b. In the context of most biblical forgiveness between persons, it is between Christian brothers and sisters that the instructions address. 1 John 1:9, 2 Chronicles 7:14. Luke 17:3-4.
2. When forgiveness is not possible
  - a. What happens when no confession and no repentance on the part of the person who offended us is acknowledged?
  - b. When forgiveness cannot be completed we are not off the hook. Proverbs 19:11; 1 Peter 3:9, 4:8, Hebrews 12:15. Acts 7:60 Stephen; Our Lord asked Forgive them for they know not.
  - c. Romans 12: 18-21 "As much as is within YOU"
3. Joyfulness when true reconciliation is not possible
  - a. Positive steps to help achieve a forgiving spirit
    - i. Remember. Matthew 18:21-35
    - ii. Ask. Matthew 7:7
    - iii. Pray for Your Offender. Matthew 5:44
  - b. Negative attitudes that hinder forgiveness
    - i. Arrogance and selfishness. Romans 12:3
    - ii. Taking from God what is His. Romans 12:19-21
    - iii. Letting the world dictate our responses to offence. John 17:14-15 Titus 2:12 (soberly)