

10. FOR WHOSE SAKE?

1. Do we (should we) forgive in order to get rid of your own emotional "burdens."
2. When Christ forgave, his *entire emphasis* was on the honor of God and the blessing of the *offender* whose sins were forgiven (e.g., John 5:14; Mark 2:5,12).
3. Self-concern is an unquestioned — and *unexamined* — foundational assumption of modern "therapeutic" culture — and it has profoundly influenced — and *distorted* — the modern church's notions of grace and "healing."

Why is this idea so *compelling*?

4. Forgiveness, by its very nature is *gracious* — it flows from tenderheartedness and compassion (Eph. 4:23; cf. Col. 3:13). It is "grace."
5. Are there benefits to us?

Biblical love, like God's, is not love with strings attached; it is love that thinks of the welfare of another while forgetting self. It is giving by forgiving. That is why I have spoken of "granting" forgiveness. It is giving another a freedom he does not deserve. Forgiveness is gracious. The appeal in the modern books, intentionally or otherwise, is to selfishness. That is a thoroughly unbiblical motivation. [96]

Some self-examination about motives.