

HOW TO LIVE

Forgive Easily, Keep Forgiving (Part 2)

Luke 17:3-4

MESSAGE NOTES

1. Forgive Easily (3)

- Decide if you can let it go. 1 Peter 4:8
- Pray about it. Matthew 5:43-48; Philippians 4:6-7
- Have a conversation. Proverbs 25:8-10; Matthew 18:15-17
- Speak directly and with humility. Galatians 6:1-3
- Give the person “space” to think and respond.
- Commit yourself to not hold the issue against or bring it up against the other person.

Question: Can or should you forgive someone who doesn't repent?

God's Word teaches and models forgiveness that is based on the offender acknowledging wrong.

Jesus (Luke 23:34) and Stephen (Acts 7:60) did not pronounce God's forgiveness nor declare their own. They prayed for God to forgive their executors.

Joseph (Genesis 50:15-21), Jesus, and Stephen exemplify having a heart that desires forgiveness for the offenders. Psalm 86:5 shows that this is God's position toward sinners: “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”

You can overcome the hurt and anger you feel until forgiveness can take place by trusting in God's sovereignty and goodness like Joseph did (Genesis 50:19) and by entrusting yourself and your situation to God's just judgment like Jesus did (1 Peter 2:23).

2. Keep Forgiving (4)

- A high expectation
Matthew 18:15-35

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:13

- Raises some tough questions

- Our great example

Even as God in Christ forgave you

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why is forgiveness as it is taught in the Bible a high expectation on human beings?

How can we work through the question of sincerity related to forgiveness? The question of trust? The question of resentment?

How does Jesus' example help us with forgiveness?