

When We Pray - Forgive Us As We Forgive Others

Matthew 5:6; John 6:35; 1 John 1:9

1. Forgiveness fills us up with the Thanksgiving goodness of Jesus paying the debt we could never repay- the emptiness of our sinful soul and a meaningless life without Christ. *Matthew 18:21-25; Matthew 6:12*

2. Forgiveness frees us to forgive. Because our debt is paid in full, we are free to forgive the debts of others. *Matthew 18:28-35; Matthew 6:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:17*

3. Forgiveness focuses our life on the need for others to experience the goodness of Christ's forgiveness through us.

- **We forgive because God requires it.**
Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:21-25
 - **We forgive to become more like Christ.**
2 Corinthians 2:15a
 - **We forgive in order to avoid entrapment by Satan.**
2 Corinthians 2:10b-11
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Forgiveness Is Not, and Forgiveness Is...

- **Forgiveness is not forgetting-** *Psalms 103:12*
 - **Forgiveness is not enabling-** *Ephesians 4:15a*
 - **Forgiveness is letting people off the hook because you realize God has them on His hook-**
Romans 12:17-19a
 - **Forgiveness is resolving to live with the consequences of another person's sin-** *Matthew 5:38-42*
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Next week's reading guide:

Matthew 6:13, Matthew 4:1-11
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Matthew 18:1-10
1 Timothy 6:6-14
Matthew 26:36-43
James 1:12-18
Galatians 5:16-26

Discussion Questions:

1. How thankful are you for forgiveness? Do you see it as a lavish, unfathomable payment of a debt you could never repay? Discuss.
2. Discuss how forgiveness frees you to forgive. What changes in your mindset regarding how you process the trespasses people commit against you? Discuss.
3. Are you a conduit for Christ's grace and forgiveness? Are you becoming more like him? Discuss.
4. Talk through the 10 Tips For Forgiving. Discuss each one and how to do it.