

The Christian Arsenal

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OFFERING GRACE Good News About Grace

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Part 5 of 9
Matthew 10:8

INTRO: God is not just with us
God is not just by us
God is not just in us
God is for us

The Bible says that God didn't just intend for us to receive grace, but He wants us to pass it on.

If you have been blessed – He wants you to bless others.
If you have been cared for by God – He wants you to care for others
If you have been forgiven by God – He wants you to forgive others.

“Give as freely as you have received!” Matthew 10:8 (LB)

FORGIVENESS QUIZ

A person should not be forgiven until he/she asks for it.

T F

Forgiving includes minimizing the offense and 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

I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

1. FORGIVENESS IS NOT CONDITIONAL.

When you tell a person, “I will forgive you if ...” – that's not forgiveness – that's bargaining.

2. FORGIVENESS ISN'T MINIMIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENSE.

The truth is, if it's worth forgiving, it did hurt you. You need to understand that there's a difference between being wronged and being wounded.

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Wounds are unintentional.

Wrongs are intentional.

3. **FORGIVENESS IS NOT RESUMING A RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT CHANGE.**

Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation.

Restored relationships require 3 things from the offender:

- Repentance
- Restitution (where possible)
- Rebuilding trust

While forgiveness is based on grace – trust is earned.

4. **FORGIVENESS IS NOT FORGETTING WHAT HAPPENED.**

Cliché: “Forgive and forget” – not possible or logical.

The only way you forget something is by replacing it with something else.

5. **FORGIVENESS IS NOT MY RIGHT WHEN I WASN'T THE ONE THAT WAS HURT.**

Only the victim can pronounce forgiveness to the person who has offended them.

Forgiveness does not remove the consequences of sin.

II. **WHAT IS GENUINE FORGIVENESS?**

1. **REMEMBERING HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN FORGIVEN.**

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.” Eph. 4:32 (NIV)

You are not forgiven because you earned it.

You are not forgiven because you deserved it.

You are not forgiven because you promised never to sin again.

Instead, you are forgiven because you've put your faith in Christ.

2. **RELINQUISHING MY RIGHT TO GET EVEN.**

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“Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God for He has said that He will repay those who deserve it.” Romans 12:19 (LB)

We always want justice in everybody else’s life. But we don’t want it in our own.

3. **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 (NIV)

HOW CAN YOU TELL WHEN YOU’VE GENUINELY FORGIVEN SOMEONE?

You can pray for God to bless them. You can look at their hurt and not just your own.

HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE.

“Love keeps no record of wrongs.” I Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

This doesn’t mean that you forget the wrongs; it just means you don’t use them as ammunition.

4 **REPEATING THE PROCESS AS LONG AS NECESSARY.**

“Peter asked, Lord, how often should I forgive somebody who sins against me? Seven times? No. Jesus replied, seventy times seven!” Matt. 18:21-22 (NLT)

You have to keep forgiving that person until the pain stops and the desire to get revenge goes away.

WHY OFFER GRACE TO OTHERS?

1. **GOD HAS BEEN GRACIOUS TO ME.**

Eph. 4:32

If you can’t forgive, you need to pause a minute and realize how much God has forgiven you.

You will never have to forgive anyone else more than Jesus Christ has already forgiven you.

2. **THE ALTERNATIVE IS BITTERNESS.**

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Resentment will not change the past.
Resentment will not solve the problem right now.
Resentment does not even make you feel better.

“Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself, but can also poison the lives of many others.” Heb. 12:15 (Ph)

3. **GOD EXPECTS ME TO DO IT.**

“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 you sins.” Matt. 6:15 (NIV)

Jesus says we cannot receive what we are unwilling to give.

The Bible teaches that what we focus on we move toward, and what we move toward, we become.