

Forgiving Others

1. We must forgive our debtors. Matt. 6:12. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

2. Forgiving others is an absolute necessity. Matt. 6:14–15. “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

3. Jesus says we must forgive often. Matt. 18:21–22. Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I for-give him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” **Luke 17:3–4.** “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

4. The parable of the unmerciful servant shows how sinful it is not to forgive; God sends judgment on this sin. Matt. 18:23–25.

5. Put away bitterness and anger; forgive as God forgives. Eph. 4:31–32. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger,

clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all mal-ice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

6. Be imitators of God. Eph. 5:1–2. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

7. The father of the prodigal son forgave him and accepted him as completely as if he had not sinned. This father represents God. Thus Jesus reveals how God treats repentant sinners. Luke 15:20–24.

8. Jesus commands us to forgive others. Mark 11:25. “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

9. Love keeps no record of wrongs. 1 Cor. 13:5 ... does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil.

10. Love covers (overlooks) a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

11. Restore with gentleness one who has fallen into sin. Gal. 6:1. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

12. Paul tells us we must forgive and restore one who has sinned against us. 2 Cor. 2:5–11.

13. Forgive a repentant sinner and affirm your love. 2 Cor. 2:7–8. So that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.

14. When we forgive others, we outwit Satan. 2 Cor. 2:10–11. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

15. Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery and treated them kindly. Gen. 45. Gen. 45:4–5. And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. “But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with your-selves

because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”