

FORGIVENESS: REACTIVE, NOT PROACTIVE
(Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:8-14)

I. Forgiveness from GOD

A. SEEKING forgiveness from God

1. Forgiveness must be REQUESTED by the REPENTANT sinner (1 John 1:9)
2. Repentance must be DEMONSTRATED by OBEDIENCE (Acts 3:19; 26:20)
3. Repentance must be demonstrated by FORGIVING OTHERS (Matt. 6:14-15; Luke 11:4)

B. RECEIVING forgiveness from God

1. Forgiveness is PROVIDED by Christ's BLOOD (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
 - a. It SATISFIES the ETERNAL consequence of sin
 - b. The TEMPORAL consequences of sin may REMAIN
2. Forgiveness is PROMISED by God (1 John 1:9)

II. Forgiveness among MEN

A. SEEKING forgiveness (Matt. 5:23-26)

1. More important than making OFFERINGS to GOD
2. Failure to do so makes forgiveness IMPOSSIBLE

B. GRANTING forgiveness (Luke 17:3-4)

1. The offended must INFORM the offender
2. The offender must REPENT of his action (Luke 17:3-4)
3. The offender may need to be DISCIPLINED (Matt. 18:15-17)
4. The offender may need to make RESTITUTION (Luke 19:8; cf. Ex. 22:1-9)
5. The penitent offender must be RESTORED

III. Important DEFINITIONS

- A. Forbearance is “PATIENTLY enduring injury or loss without becoming BITTER or demanding immediate RESTITUTION”
- B. Forgiveness is “ACCEPTING an offender’s APOLOGY and/or RESTITUTION as full SATISFACTION of an injury or debt and RESTORING him to your former relationship”

IV. Forgiveness Applied to My Relationships with OTHERS

- A. It is *not unforgiving* to expect a REPENTANT HEART
- B. It is *not unforgiving* to expect FULL RESTITUTION
- C. It is unforgiving to REFUSE to restore to FELLOWSHIP someone who has truly repented