

IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

New Life Bible Church

March 2, 2014

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A family friendly, never alone, purpose driven church

Forgiveness: Showing unconditional love to someone (the offender) who has hurt you deeply, even to your core.

Unconditional Love: Caring for and treating the offender as if they have never hurt you at all.

NOTE: Forgiving isn't easy however, it is necessary.

1. Our salvation with God depends upon our forgiveness.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15

Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. Matthew 18:32-33

2. Our communication with God depend upon our forgiveness.

But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. Mark 11:25

Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It's your sins (lack of forgiving) that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. Isaiah 59:1-2

3. Our Christ-likeness depends upon our forgiveness.

When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. . Then Jesus said to the woman, Your sins are forgiven." Luke 37,47-48

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for His clothes by throwing dice. Luke 23:34

4. Our commitment to God's WORD depends upon our forgiveness.

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22

So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." Luke 17:3-4

So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. Matthew 5:23-24; "Obedience is better than sacrifice
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5. Our emotional stability depends upon our forgiveness.

The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Psalm 25:17-18

Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to YOU and forgave those who hurt me. I will confess my rebellion to the Lord. And you forgave me! All my anger is waning. Psalm 32:4-5

We are to forgive so that we may enjoy God's goodness without feeling the weight of anger burning deep within our hearts. Forgiveness does not mean we recant the fact that what

happened to us was wrong. Instead, we roll our burdens onto the Lord and allow Him to carry them for us. Rolling our burdens onto the Lord—that's the secret of the Christian life, and the secret of how to forgive. Dr. [Charles Stanley](#)

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