

FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER

THE MEASURE OF FORGIVENESS:

Seventy times seven: Matthew 18:21, 22

Peter thought he was being generous when he asked Jesus about forgiving others (up to 7 times). Rabbinic teaching was that an offended person needed to forgive only 3 times. Jesus' word was it was to be a much greater extent (no limits),

Unlimited: Luke 17:3, 4

If someone repents for their sin (offense) against you, forgive...even if it occurs 7 times in one day.

As God forgave us: Ephesians 4:32

We are to follow Christ's example in every area of our lives. We are to act in love toward one another. Jesus even prayed for those who beat Him: "Father, forgive them...."

BENEFITS OF FORGIVING:

A means of our forgiveness: Mark 11:25, 26

Our prayers are hindered if we are holding anything against someone else as well as any forgiveness we need from God. A forgiving attitude toward others as well as our faith in God is essential for an effective prayer life.

Restored Christian fellowship: 2 Corinthians 2:7-10

Once the offender has expressed repentance, forgive and help restore them to fellowship. Satan could gain an advantage if they had permanently separated this man from the church.

Spiritual Cleansing: James 5:15, 16

Sin in our lives does affect us spiritually and can also affect us physically. There are some illnesses that can be traced to sin roots in our lives. We are encouraged to confess our sins to each other and to pray for each other. The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective.

EXAMPLES FROM SCRIPTURE THAT YOU CAN STUDY AND GLEAN THE LESSONS LEARNED HERE AS FAR AS FORGIVING OTHERS.

Esau and Jacob:	Genesis 33:4-15
Joseph	Genesis 45:8-15
Moses	Numbers 12:1-13
David	2 Samuel 19:18-23
Solomon	1 Kings 1:53
Jesus	Luke 23:34
Stephen	Acts 7:60
Paul	2 Timothy 4:16