

HOW TO WALK IN LOVE

What Is Forgiveness?

I. Forgiveness and it's core deals with separation and it's a separation from the aught, from the offense-

Luke 6:37

A. This is a one word command from Jesus, FORGIVE

1. **Forgive** (Apoluo)-Forgive comes from to Greek words *Apo* and *Luo*
 - a. *Apo*-Separation; Of any kind of separation of one thing from another by which the union or fellowship of the two is destroyed; *Apo* is the root word of forgiveness and it means separation
 - b. *Luo*-To loose, to set free, to let go, undo, dismiss, break up, annul, do away with
2. The idea is forgiveness is separating by letting go, dismissing, doing away with
3. *AMP-Forgive and release, give up resentment, let it drop*

B. Another big word in forgiveness is to RELEASE (Footnote-Literal meaning of forgive is to release)

1. **Rick Renner**-To set free; To let go; To release; To discharge; To liberate completely; It was used in NT times in reference to canceling a debt or releasing someone from the obligation of a contract; To forfeit any right to hold a person captive to a previous commitment or wrong he has committed. It's a picture of totally freeing or releasing someone. A phrase would be to let it go.
2. Release from bondage or imprisonment; Forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed)
3. **Septuagint**-It is translated brooks (Joel 1:20) and rivers (Lam 3:47). For the releasing of water by opening the sluices/drains. Then there is the common use in the Septuagint of aphesis for the year of Jubilee (All slaves were set free, all debts were remitted, all land was released back into the hands of the original owner)

II. To forgive is an act of your will to separate by letting go

A. To forgive is to let it go, leave it alone, disregard it, leave it and not discuss

1. *Matthew 15:14-Let them alone, they be blind leaders of the blind*

B. To forgive is to give up, to keep no longer (meaning I'm not keeping that ought any longer, I've giving it up, not holding onto it)

1. *Revelation 2:4-Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because you have left thy first love*

C. To forgive is to give up a thing to one (meaning you have to give that offense up)

1. *Matthew 5:40-And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also*

2. *Mark 11:16-And would not suffer that any man carry any vessel through the temple*

D. The opposite of letting it go is holding onto

1. To walk in forgiveness means you're going to have to leave it alone in your thought life and you're not going to discuss it; Discussing it is holding onto it, thinking about it is not leaving it alone
2. To walk in forgiveness is to give up talking about it and thinking about it; talking about it and thinking about it is not letting it go
3. Nobody can make you hold onto something; you have the authority, you can hold onto it, you can let it go and therefore the power to forgive is in your hands

III. To forgive is an act of your will to separate by leaving

- A. To go away leaving something behind; you have to leave the offense behind
 1. If you left it behind then that means it's not with you in your words, your actions, your thought life
 2. *Matthew 5:24-Leave your gift before the altar and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer they gift*
 3. *John 4:28-The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city*
- B. To forgive is to leave, to go away from, to depart from anyone (in order to go to another place); in order to go forward in the Kingdom you got to give up that offense and unforgiveness
 1. *Matthew 22:22-When they heard these words, they marveled, and left him, and went their way*
 2. *Mark 8:13-And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side*
 3. *John 16:28-I leave the world and go unto the Father*
- C. The opposite of leaving is staying
 1. How long are you going to hang around that ought, that fault, that offense, that thing you don't like that they did or said?
 2. **To walk in forgiveness there's some places (in your thought life) that you can't go and most certainly can't stay**

IV. To forgive is an act of your will to separate by sending something away

- A. To forgive is to send away the ought and tell it to depart
 1. *To send away, to bid to go away or depart-Matthew 13:36-Jesus sent the multitude away*
- B. To forgive is to send forth, to emit/release the ought
 1. *To send forth, to yield up, to emit, to expire-Matthew 27:50-Jesus yielded up the ghost*
- C. The opposite of sending it is allowing it to hang around (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
 1. You have two choices with ought and unforgiveness: 1) You can send it away 2) You can let it hang around
 - a. This reveals to us that WE have the authority to send it away if we so choose or let it hang around if we so choose
 - b. To walk in forgiveness there's some stuff that you can't allow to hang around, there's stuff that has to be sent away
 2. One of the biggest areas you have to send it away if from is your thought life

V. To forgive is an act of your will to separate by breaking fellowship

- A. To forgive is to ignore, forget, neglect what the person has done; To omit, neglect
 - 1. They are not paying any attention to weightier matters of the law, they are ignoring them, neglecting them, forgetting them
 - a. *Matthew 23:23-For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith*
 - 2. They just laid aside the commandment of God, ignored it, forgot it, neglected it
 - a. *Mark 7:8-For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, as the washing of the posts and cups*
- B. To depart from one and leave him to himself so that all mutual claims are abandoned
 - 1. *Matthew 4:22-And they immediately left their ship and their father and followed him*
 - 2. *Matthew 19:27-Peter said unto him, behold we have forsaken all and followed you*
 - 3. *Luke 5:11-And when they brought their ships to the land they forsook all and followed him*
 - 4. *John 10:12-Sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees*
- C. Abandon, leave destitute; To leave one by not taking him as a companion
 - 1. Unforgiveness is taking the offense as a companion and fellowshiping with it
 - 2. *Matthew 24:40-Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left*
- D. To forgive is to leave that offense and abandon all fellowship with it
 - 1. This means you're not going to nurse the ought and rehearse it and think on it
 - 2. Forgiveness turns it backs and leaves never to return again
 - 3. It's the nature of your flesh to want to fellowship with the ought and think about it and hold onto it

VI. To forgive is to remit, to pay, to be square, to be settled (meaning there's nothing between you and me)

- A. If they are forgiven then you are square with them and that means there's nothing between you and them
 - 1. Jesus is telling him there's nothing between you and the Lord
 - a. *Matthew 9:2-Some be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee*
 - 2. The master is telling the servant there is nothing between you and me; we are square
 - a. *Matthew 18:27-The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the Lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgive him the debt.*
 - 3. Jesus is telling us square up with people and don't have anything between you and them in your heart
 - a. *Mark 11:25-Forgive if you have ought against any*

VII. Forgiveness is an on purpose act of your will by faith to let go of a wrong a person did and love them as though the wrong never occurred (Luke 17:4 (AMP)-You must forgive him (give up resentment and consider the offense as recalled and annulled)

- A. You sent that wrong away, you have let it go, you are leaving it alone, you are disregarding it, not discussing it, you are leaving it behind; A separation has taken place and your mind and heart are no longer in fellowship with the wrong done (You won't let your mind fellowship with the wrong done) and now you're treating that person as though the offense never occurred
 - 1. What's the opposite of forgiveness? – The opposite of giving is taking, the opposite of letting go is holding onto
 - 2. You're not letting it go, you're not leaving it behind, you're not sending it away, you haven't broken fellowship with it, you and that person are not square, and you are treating them and seeing them through the lens of that offense
- B. Psalm 130:3-4-Unforgiveness marks people's wrong (like writing it down on a chalkboard)
 - 1. Forgiveness is not marking the iniquity
 - a. **Mark**-Keep, give heed, observe, watch, retain; **Iniquity**-fault
 - b. Forgiveness doesn't keep it, doesn't pay attention to it and observe it and watch it and retain it; Forgiveness lets it go
 - 2. Unforgiveness marks wrongs that people do (like on a chalkboard) so that it won't forget it, so that it can hold on to them
 - a. The opposite of marking people's wrongs is forgiving

VIII. The art of the enemy's craft is to try to get you camp on that offense (the thing the person did that you don't like)

- A. Satan wants you to hang around it, harp on it, think about it, talk about it and never does he want you to let it go
 - 1. Doing this destroys your love walk (Proverbs 17:9) and it creates division (Proverbs 18:19) and in turn kills your faith (Galatians 5:6)
- B. He will bring it up again and again in your thought life trying to get you to take it (the offense) and you're going to have to deal with every thought by declaring that you have forgiven them and let go of that

IX. Luke 17:3-5-This command to forgive will usually be accompanied by a feeling of inadequacy to keep it, to do it (it's accompanied by the thought, "I can't do it, I can't let it go, I can't forgive and also if you were honest with yourself, that you don't want to forgive)

- A. It is the nature of your flesh to hold onto wrongs and not let them go-Galatians 5:17
 - 1. Your flesh likes the offense, it likes holding onto the wrong, but the recreated you wants to let it go
- B. Your flesh feeds on fleshiness; it's called sowing to the flesh-Galatians 6:8

1. Your flesh feeds offense and unforgiveness like a drug addict feeds on drug
- C. Most people have lived most of the born-again lives having ought (something against) somebody
1. Their flesh has gotten used to feeding on that and having that and has become addicted to it and the thought of letting it go and forgiving is that similar to the thought the drug addict has about letting go of his drugs – I can't, I don't want to
 2. See when you live with offense and unforgiveness for so long your flesh begins to depend upon the nourishment of those things for it's survival and just like a drug addict feels like he can't let go of the drugs (because he want survive) your flesh feels like it can't let go of the unforgiveness because it won't survive – GOOD! Your flesh isn't supposed to survive, it's supposed to be crucified!
 3. Like the drug addict, the flesh addicted to offense doesn't know what real freedom is; real freedom is when you wake up in the morning and don't have anything against anybody
- D. Begin to cultivate the desire to forgive
1. There is a life available to the believer where the sun can rise and they can roll out of bed and start their day and not have anything against anybody; And you don't know what living is until you live not having anything against anybody