

# FORGIVENESS (1)

## *What It Isn't, What It Is and Signs You've Extended It*

### INTRODUCTION:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the choices. Forgiveness is, does, and feels better.

B. Forgiveness isn't an option for those who are of Christ, every day, everywhere.

1. God is a forgiver (*Psa 32:1-2; 103:8-14; John 1:29; Eph 1:7; 1 Tim 1:15-16; 1 John 1:7-9*).

2. His children must be forgivers (*Matt 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26; Luke 17:1-5; Eph 4:31-32; Col 3:13*).

a. If someone has sinned against you, *YOU* go to that person (*Matt 18:15-17*).

b. If someone else thinks you've sinned, *YOU* go to that person (*Matt 5:23-24*).

### I. FORGIVENESS: What It Isn't

A. \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ — acting like it never occurred only builds resentment and anger.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ — memories aren't suddenly wiped clean of the offense.

C. The automatic regaining of \_\_\_\_\_ — that which is earned can be shattered.

D. The magical removal of \_\_\_\_\_ — actions have ripple-effects that can last a lifetime.

E. Instant emotional \_\_\_\_\_ — some wounds run very deep and take time to recover.

F. A restoration of the same \_\_\_\_\_ — maybe closer, maybe more distant.

G. \_\_\_\_\_ for the future — violates the entire principle and purpose of forgiveness.

### II. FORGIVENESS: What It Is

A. A \_\_\_\_\_ — a conscious decision made by the offended individual.

B. Letting go of the “\_\_\_\_\_” to get even — revenge is removed from the relational radar.

C. Setting aside the \_\_\_\_\_ and grudge — pent-up angst is helpful to no one.

D. Removing the mental \_\_\_\_\_ — clearing the pathway to peace.

E. A giant step towards \_\_\_\_\_ — some weights are too heavy to bear.

F. Moving \_\_\_\_\_ — “It hurt. I didn't like it. But I'm moving on in spite of the pain.”

G. An opportunity to display \_\_\_\_\_ — walking in the footsteps of our risen Savior and King.

### III. FORGIVENESS: Signs You've Extended It

A. The first thought you have about them isn't the \_\_\_\_\_ they inflicted.

B. The second thought you have about them isn't a “\_\_\_\_\_ -even” fantasy.

C. You've stopped hoping and looking for them to \_\_\_\_\_.

D. You're able and willing to think and express \_\_\_\_\_ thoughts about them.

E. You're willing to show \_\_\_\_\_ to them, with no strings attached, as opportunities arise.