



# FORGIVENESS DEFINITIONS

Walking Christian

## SUMMARY

Jesus expressed the heart of forgiveness when He said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you"

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Wednesday Bible Class

# Forgiveness Definitions

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Walking Christian on Forgiveness / Forgiveness; Reconciliation / Luke 17:3–4

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## I. DEFINITIONS: THE MANY FACES OF FORGIVENESS

*“If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”*

(Luke 17:3–4)

### A. What Is Forgiveness?

• **Forgiveness** means \_\_\_\_\_.

(Luke 6:27)

• **Forgiveness**

is \_\_\_\_\_,  
especially when they fail to meet your expectations ... fail to keep a promise ... fail to treat you justly.

(Matthew 5:39)

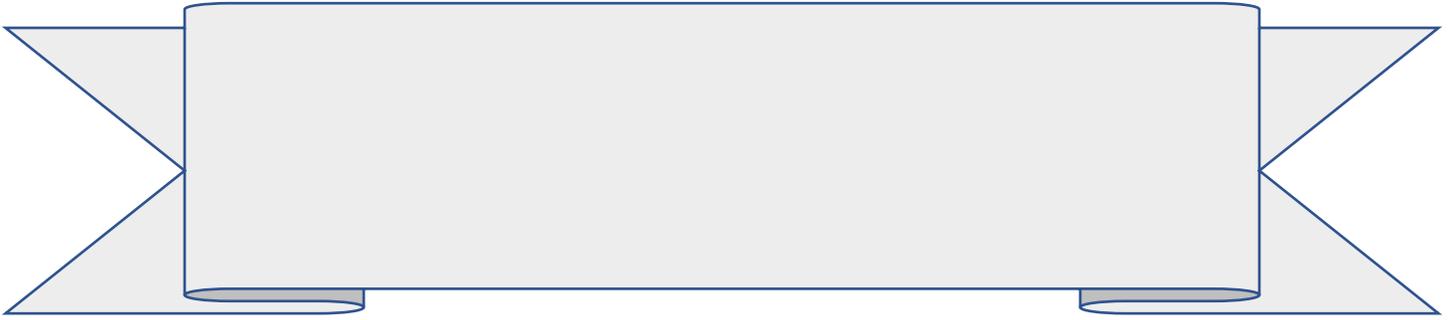
• **Forgiveness**

is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(Acts 10:43)

**Question: “Is it possible to sin beyond God’s ability to forgive?”**

Answer: (Psalm 32:5)



## B. What Forgiveness Is *Not*?

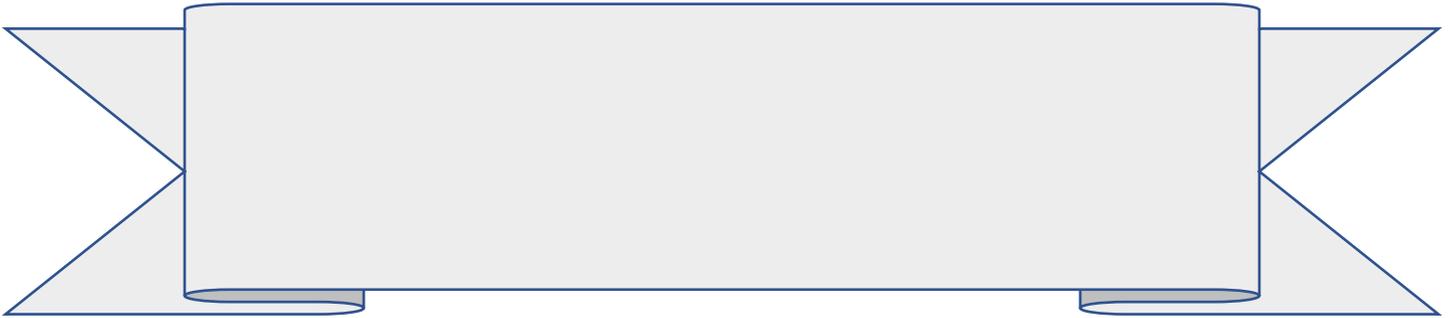
(Proverbs 1:5)

- *Forgiveness is not* \_\_\_\_\_....
- *Forgiveness is not* \_\_\_\_\_.” ...
- *Forgiveness is not* \_\_\_\_\_.” ...
- *Forgiveness is not* \_\_\_\_\_....

(See John 8:3–11.)

**Question: “If I don’t feel like forgiving, how can I be asked to forgive? That doesn’t seem right.”**

**Answer:** (Proverbs 14:12)



## **C. What Does It Mean to Forgive Others?**

(Hebrews 12:1)

• **To forgive** \_\_\_\_\_.

(Romans 12:17)

• **To forgive** \_\_\_\_\_.

(Proverbs 17:9)

• **To forgive** \_\_\_\_\_. Just as God is willing to forgive us, we are called to forgive others.

(Matthew 6:12)

**Question: “What can I do when I don’t feel like forgiving?”**

**Answer:** (Philippians 4:8)



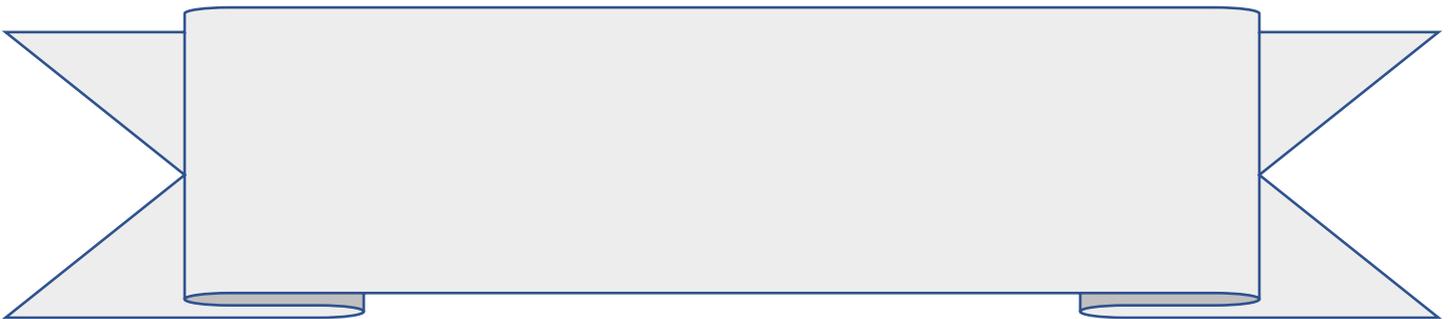
## **D. Is Forgiveness the Same as Reconciliation?**

(Amos 3:3)

- **Forgiveness** can take place with only one person.
  - **Reconciliation** requires at least two persons.
- **Forgiveness** is directed one-way.
  - **Reconciliation** is reciprocal ... occurring two-ways.
- **Forgiveness** is a decision to release the offender.
  - **Reconciliation** is the effort to rejoin the offender.
- **Forgiveness** involves a change in thinking about the offender.
  - **Reconciliation** involves a change in behavior by the offender.
- **Forgiveness** is a free gift to the one who has broken trust.
  - **Reconciliation** is a restored relationship based on restored trust.
- **Forgiveness** is extended even if it is never, ever earned.
  - **Reconciliation** is offered to the offender because it has been earned.
- **Forgiveness** is unconditional, regardless of a lack of repentance.
  - **Reconciliation** is conditional based on repentance.

**Question: “After we forgive someone, must we also *try* to be reconciled?”**

**Answer:** (Proverbs 22:24)



## **E. What Is Divine Forgiveness?**

(Daniel 9:9)

• **Divine forgiveness** is the fact that God, in His mercy, chose to release you from the penalty for your sins. (Unfortunately, some people refuse to receive this gift from God.)

(Psalm 103:8, 10, 12)

• **Divine forgiveness** was extended by Jesus, who paid the penalty for our sins in full—He died on the cross as payment for the sins of all people. While we owed a debt we could not pay, He paid a debt He did not owe.

(Isaiah 53:6).

• **Divine forgiveness** is an extension of grace as seen in the Greek word **charizomai**, which is translated “forgive” and means “to bestow a favor unconditionally.” The Greek word **charis** means “grace.” You are an expression of God’s grace when you forgive others with divine forgiveness.

(Ephesians 4:32)

(Genesis 45:5–8)

### **The Secret to Joseph’s Success**

• **“Do not be distressed and do not be angry.”**

• **“God sent me.”**

• **“He made me.”**

(Romans 8:28)

**Question: “How can I respond in a Christlike way when I’m being treated so unjustly?”**

**Answer: (1 Peter 2:19–23)**

