

Walking Christian on Forgiveness

“First seek the counsel of the LORD.”

([1 Kings 22:5](#) NIV)

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Unraveling the Power and Freedom of Grace

([Psalm 27:12–14](#))



Schrader Lane Church of Christ Wednesday Adult Bible Study
Beginning Second Quarter 2024 April – June 6:15 p.m.
Facilitator: Barry G. Johnson, Sr.
Assistant: Jon Pinkerton

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I. DEFINITIONS: THE MANY FACES OF FORGIVENESS

[\(Luke 17:3-4\)](#)

A. What Is Forgiveness?

QUESTION: "Is it possible to sin beyond God's ability to forgive?"

[\(Psalm 32:5\)](#)

B. What Forgiveness is Not

QUESTION: "If I don't feel like forgiving, how can I be asked to forgive? That doesn't seem right."

[\(Proverbs 14:12\)](#)

C. The Meaning of Forgiving Others

[\(Hebrews 12:1\)](#)

[\(Romans 12:17\)](#)

[\(Proverbs 17:9\)](#)

[\(Matthew 6:12\)](#)

QUESTION: "What can I do when I don't feel like forgiving?"

[\(Philippians 4:8\)](#)

D. Forgiveness versus Reconciliation?

[\(Amos 3:3\)](#)

QUESTION: "After we forgive someone, must we also try to be reconciled?"

E. Looking at Divine Forgiveness

[\(Daniel 9:9\)](#)

II. THE HALLMARKS OF UNFORGIVENESS

[\(Hebrews 12:15\)](#)

A. Why Should We Get Rid of Unforgiveness?

[\(Proverbs 28:13\)](#)

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[\(Matthew 6:15\)](#)

QUESTION: “How can I forgive someone who has not apologized or shown any kind of repentance?”

[\(Luke 23:34\)](#)

QUESTION: “If I forgive those who offend me, I’ll be a classic enabler. Why should offenders change if there is no consequence for their offensive behavior?”

[\(Galatians 1:10\)](#)

B. The Qualities of a Heart that Forgives

[\(Galatians 5:22–23\)](#)

QUESTION: “How do I know whether I have genuinely forgiven someone?”

C. The Price of Holding On versus the Riches of Letting Go

III. CAUSES OF UNFORGIVENESS

[\(Psalm 41:9\)](#)

A. The Complex Challenge of Granting Forgiveness

[\(Proverbs 18:19\)](#)

QUESTION: “What should I do if I don’t want to reap the damaging results of unforgiveness?”

B. The Interplay Between Justice and the Struggle with Unforgiveness

[\(Psalm 51:1\)](#)

C. The Creation of Spiritual Strongholds Through Unforgiveness

[\(Ephesians 4:26–27\)](#)

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D. The Assurance of Complete Divine Pardon

QUESTION: "I know God has forgiven me of my sins, but how do I forgive myself?"

IV. GROWTH, PROGRESS AND MATURITY

[\(Matthew 9:13\)](#)

A. Key Verse to Memorize

[\(Colossians 3:13\)](#)

B. Key Passage to Read and Reread

[Matthew 18:23-35](#)

C. The Imperative of Releasing Resentment through Forgiveness

D. The Progressive Phases of Achieving Forgiveness

[\(Leviticus 19:18\)](#)

- #1 Face the Offense.
- #2 Feel the Offense.
- #3 Forgive the Offender.
- #4 Find Oneness ... if appropriate.

QUESTION: "If I have forgiven a monetary debt, thus freeing a person from paying me back, does God still expect that person to repay the debt as a matter of integrity?"

E. The Journey Towards True Forgiveness

F. Cultivating a Spirit of Continual Forgiveness

[\(Luke 17:4\)](#)

G. Strategies for Shielding Your Heart Against the Poison of Bitterness

[\(Matthew 5:44\)](#)

[\(1 Peter 3:9\)](#)

QUESTION: "How can I release the bitterness toward my offender, who is now dead?"

H. The Art of Rebalancing and Lighten the Scales of Blame

I. The Conclusion of the Story