

# Questions About Forgiveness

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# Questions about forgiveness

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- ❑ Do I have to forgive?
- ❑ Who do I forgive?
- ❑ When do I forgive?
- ❑ How do I forgive?



# Do I have to forgive?

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- Does the Bible command us to forgive?
  - Matthew 6:9-25
  - Matthew 18:15-22ff
  - Luke 17:3-4
  - Ephesians 4:32

# Matthew 6:9-25

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- <sup>9</sup>"This, then, is how you should pray:  
" 'Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup>your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily bread.  
<sup>12</sup>*Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*  
<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.
- <sup>14</sup>*For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

# Matthew 18:15-22ff

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<sup>15</sup>"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. ***If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.*** <sup>16</sup>But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup>"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

<sup>21</sup>***Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"***

<sup>22</sup>***Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.***

- What does Peter's question tell us about Matthew 18:15?
- Why are verses 19-20 in the middle of this passage?



## Luke 17:3-4

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- <sup>1</sup>Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. <sup>2</sup>It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup>*So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup>If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."* <sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"



# Ephesians 4:32

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- <sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*



# What have you been forgiven?

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- The basis of both our ability and our requirement to forgive is the forgiveness we have received.
  - Without having that forgiveness, we are unable to forgive
  - *If we are unable to forgive, we do not have forgiveness.*
  - Matthew 6:14,15
  - Matthew 18:23-35
  - 1 John 2
  - Luke 6:37 (ff)
  - Is our salvation conditional on our ability to forgive?
  - Are you truly aware of the debt that you have been forgiven?





# Luke 6:37-42

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- <sup>37</sup>"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. ***Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*** <sup>38</sup>Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." <sup>39</sup>He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup>A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.
- <sup>41</sup>"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>42</sup>How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.



# 1 John 2:1-10ff

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<sup>1</sup>My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

<sup>3</sup>We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. <sup>4</sup>The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup>But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup>Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. <sup>8</sup>Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

<sup>9</sup>*Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.*

<sup>10</sup>*Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. <sup>11</sup>But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.*

# Matthew 18:22-35

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<sup>23</sup>"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup>"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup>"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

<sup>29</sup>"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

<sup>30</sup>"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup>"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup>In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup>"*This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.*"

# Luke 7:36-48

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<sup>36</sup>Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup>When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, <sup>38</sup>and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. <sup>39</sup>When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

<sup>40</sup>Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

<sup>41</sup>"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

<sup>42</sup>Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup>Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

<sup>44</sup>Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

<sup>45</sup>You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.

<sup>46</sup>You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. <sup>47</sup>***Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.***"

<sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup>The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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## Replace a word...

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- “I can’t *forgive him* for that!”
- “I’ll *forgive him* when he is truly sorry”
- “I’ll *forgive him* when I’m good and ready.”
- “There are some times you just can’t *forgive.*”

# Discussion

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