

B. The _____ of sincerity is a willingness to make a commitment not to raise the issue again.

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” Psalm 32:1

1. Not dwelling on it _____.

Do you have to forget in order to forgive?

People often say, “If you didn’t forget about the incident, then you really didn’t forgive the person.” This simply is not true! Once forgiveness is granted, recurring thoughts about the episode probably will occur. When this happens, you must not dwell on the past, but replace ungodly thoughts from your flesh with godly thoughts from the Bible.

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” II Corinthians 10:5

2. Not bringing it up to the _____.

“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.” Proverbs 17:9

3. Not talking about it with _____.

“Speak not evil one of another,” James 4:11a

LIVE FORGIVEN

January 1, 1863, was a landmark date in the history of the United States. It was then that Abraham Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that all slaves would henceforth be considered free. This decision led to the freedom of four million slaves. Today, I want to issue another Emancipation Proclamation that will hopefully lead to the freedom of those who hear this message that are in bondage to bitterness.

- **Receive God’s forgiveness**
- **Forgive yourself**
- **Forgive others**

DISCOVERING FORGIVENESS ~ LEARNING TO LET GO OF LIFE’S HURTS

Livin’ Forgiven

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INTRODUCTION

A. Forgiveness is a _____ need.

“31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32

“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;” Hebrews 12:15

B. This five week series of messages will teach you about...

April 4 – Finding Forgiveness

April 11 – Forgiving Yourself

April 18 – Forgiving Others

April 25 – Restoring A Broken Relationship

TODAY – Livin’ Forgiven

C. **TEXT:** Matthew 18:21-35 (Pew Bible/Page 20/New Testament)

This is the _____ passage in the Bible dealing with forgiveness.

HOW TO LIVE FORGIVEN

I. THE REGULARITY OF FORGIVENESS (18:21-22)

A. Forgiveness is a _____.

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12

1. Jewish law taught you had to forgive _____ times.
2. Peter’s law taught you had to forgive _____ times.
3. Jesus taught you had to forgive _____ times.

Why? Bitterness takes away from your _____ of life.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

B. Forgiveness is a _____.

It is a decision that you make based on an act of the _____, not an _____.

“And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” Acts 7:60

II. THE EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS (18:23-27)

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is following _____.

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do....” Luke 23:34a

A. The _____ of Man (18:23-24)

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

Isaiah 64:6

B. The _____ of Sin (18:25)

“For the wages of sin is death;” (Hell) Romans 6:23a

C. The _____ of God (18:26-27)

“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”

Psalms 86:5

III. THE ACT OF FORGIVENESS (18:28-34)

A. Forgiveness is _____ someone from a _____ that was caused by their offensive actions towards you.

“8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” Romans 5:8-10

B. Forgiveness is _____ your right to _____ those who have hurt you.

“17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” Romans 12:17-19

IV. THE TEST OF FORGIVENESS (18:35)

A. Forgiveness is to be “from your heart” which means to be _____.

“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.” Matthew 15:8