

Forgiveness: Release. Reset. Renew

Matthew 6:14-15

October 17, 2021

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

1. What's the link between forgiven-ness and forgiving-ness?

Forgiveness works in both dimensions or **not at all** vertical (from God) and horizontal (with others)

2. An unforgiving heart shows three things (see Matt 18:21-35)

Someone who's **unaware** of God's forgiveness

Maybe you don't understand God's forgiveness

Someone who's unappreciative of God's forgiveness

Maybe you don't **value** God's forgiveness

Someone who's unable to experience God's forgiveness

Maybe you are not **enjoying** God's forgiveness

3. How do we understand, value and enjoy God's forgiveness?

We don't **buy** our own forgiveness by forgiving others—
Christ has redeemed us by His blood (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 5:9)

We don't advocate for our forgiveness by forgiving others—
Christ is our only Advocate before God (1 John 2:1-2)

We don't inspire or **motivate** God to forgive us—

Forgiveness is a free gift of God's grace (Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:4-5)

4. Forgiveness is a release from the obligation to repay a **debt**

Who owes you? What do they owe you? How much?

5. What **measure** will you use in forgiving others?

(compare Luke 6:37-38 with Matthew 7:1-2)

Life Group Homework



1. Which of these photos do you most relate to? Explain.
2. Has your familiarity with God's forgiveness lessened or increased your readiness to extend forgiveness to others?
3. Suggest three ways you could pray the "Lord's Model-Prayer" and *not* have it become meaningless words (Matt. 6:7-8)?