

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I FORGIVE?

May 23, 2021 Matthew 18:21-22 by Bob Branch
The Power and Complexity of Forgiveness, part 6

“Peter approached him and asked, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?” “I tell you, not as many as seven,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven.” **Mat. 18:21-22** CSB

BIG QUESTION: How many times should I forgive?

“Love... keeps no record of wrongs.” **1 Corinthians 13:5**

Forgive without _____, not without _____.

WHY FORGIVE MULTIPLES TIMES?

WHAT DRIVES US AWAY FROM FORGIVING?

— MYTHS ABOUT FORGIVENESS:

- If I forgive this person, it means that I’m condoning their behavior.
- Forgiving means that what happened is okay.
- If I forgive, then my relationship with them will certainly improve.
- If I forgive, I must remain in a relationship/reconcile with this person.
- If I forgive, then I won’t be angry about what happened.
- If I forgive, I give up my right to feel hurt, angry or sad.
- I haven't really forgiven that person when I remember what happened.
- I only need to forgive once.
- I forgive, it’s for the sake of the other person.

- If I forgive, it might happen to me again.
- If I forgive, I no longer hold the person accountable for the offending behavior.
- If I forgive, I’m implying that the offender is innocent, less guilty, or somehow off the hook.
- I should only forgive if the other person deserves it.
- I can only forgive in response to a request for forgiveness.
- I must feel like forgiving before I can forgive.
- I must forgive immediately.
- I must have a guarantee that it won’t happen again.

“Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” **Luke 6:37**

“Forgive us the wrongs we have done as we ourselves release forgiveness to those who have wronged us.”

Matthew 6:12 TPT

“when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” **Mark 11:25**

5 THINGS YOU CAN START TODAY

1. Identify the _____ and offense. (**Mt. 18:15**)
2. Identify and express the _____ associated with the offense. (**Ps. 52**)
3. Embrace the _____ for forgiveness. (**Luke 6:37**)
4. Choose to _____ forgiveness. (**Mt. 6:12**)
5. Set clear _____ where appropriate. (**1 Jn. 3:7**)