

Our Desperate Need For *Forgiveness*

Why?

What?

How?

Our Desperate Need For Forgiveness

1. Why is Forgiveness Necessary?

A. Bitterness extends the power of an event to hurt us.

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“Harboring bitterness toward those who have wronged us is like shooting ourselves in order to hit our enemy with the recoil of the gun.”

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1. Why is Forgiveness Necessary?

B. Bitterness seldom remains confined to one area of our lives.

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1. Why is Forgiveness Necessary?

C. Bitterness can draw us into sin.

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“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” – Matthew 5:44

“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God.”

– Romans 12:19

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1. Why is Forgiveness Necessary?

D. If we do not forgive it will cost us our salvation.

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“For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

- Matthew 6:14-15

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“He that cannot forgive others breaks
the bridge over which he himself must
pass if he would ever reach heaven.”
- George Herbert

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1. Why is Forgiveness Necessary?
2. What is Forgiveness?

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2. What is Forgiveness?

- A. Forgiveness isn't simply forgetting.
- B. Forgiveness means to completely cancel the debt.
- C. Forgiveness is hard!
- D. Forgiveness is costly.

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Forgiveness is never a receipt given for a debt paid in full.

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2. What is Forgiveness?

E. Forgiveness is granted when there is repentance.

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“Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”

- Luke 17:3-4

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If someone does not repent, can I then be bitter? No!

“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God.”

– Romans 12:19

“Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.” – 2 Timothy 4:14

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“Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.” - Matthew 5:44

“Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...” - Luke 6:28

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2. What is Forgiveness?

F. Forgiveness is shown clearly in Jesus Christ.

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1. Why is Forgiveness Necessary?
2. What is Forgiveness?
3. How do we Forgive?

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3. How do we Forgive?

The key to learning how to forgive is to understand how God has forgiven us.

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“And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor, and each man his brother saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” – Jer. 31:34

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*“I, even I, am the One who wipes out
your transgressions for My own sake;
and I will not remember your sins.”*

- Isaiah 43:25

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ZAKAR = to remember, to think of, to
make mention of.

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“Forgiveness amounts to a promise never to bring up the issue of blame again - not to the offender, not to another, not even to oneself in brooding over the loss.”

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*“Though the hornet of memory may fly
again, forgiveness has drawn its sting.”*
– David Augsburger

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“For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

- Matthew 6:14-15