

# Forgive So We Can Be Forgiven?

We know we have to forgive others because Jesus demonstrated that particular principle. He also said this:

**Luke 6:37-38** (NKJV) – *Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you...For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

Because of this text and others like it<sup>1</sup>, Christians get themselves all ‘tied up in knots’ because of legalism. I know, I used to be one of those knotted-up ones.

The legalism comes because of fear: fear of displeasing God; and fear of losing your salvation.

In regards to forgiving others, questions precede the legalism. Questions such as:

- How do I really and truly forgive?
- Do I need to forgive and forget?
- At the Judgement, how many unforgivenesses equates to me not being forgiven?
- If I accidentally fail to forgive someone, will I not be forgiven of all my sins?
- Does forgiveness, not judging and not condemning mean I’m not allowed to disciple my children?
- Etc., etc.

Firstly, forgiveness requires us to **release** the person we are forgiving. This is evident in this translation of Luke 6:

**Luke 6:37-38** (AMPC<sup>2</sup>) – *Judge not [neither pronouncing judgment nor subjecting to censure], and you will not be judged; do not condemn and pronounce guilty, and you will not be condemned and pronounced guilty; acquit and forgive and release<sup>3</sup> (give up resentment, let it drop), and you will be acquitted and forgiven and released<sup>4</sup>. Give, and [gifts] will be given to you...For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you.*

It’s not enough just to say, “I forgive you” because forgiveness is a matter of the heart. We have to learn how to forgive freely, from the heart, without any compulsion. When you tell a person you forgive them, or tell the Lord you forgive them, there is an additional step to accomplish release. Always tell the Lord you forgive a person because that’s part of your intimacy with him – i.e. sharing your heart. When that’s done, tell the Lord, “I release them from owing me anything”. This means you are not looking for any recompense or apology. This is as hard as forgiving someone because most of us want retribution or self-perceived justice.

Recompense, retribution, pay-back, etc., are not Kingdom desires. We must learn to let our King be our justifier and defender. This is how he wants it, and it takes the focus off ourselves. This is why releasing people is so important.

One way to help yourself learn to release others is to start telling the Lord about the offending person, “Don’t hold this against them on the day of Judgement”. That’s a powerful statement of self-denial and it surrenders the debt for the sin/misdemeanour to him to deal with. No closure is required – we have received justification from him.

Secondly, if we aren’t forgiven all our sins on Judgement Day just because we haven’t forgiven one person, then the payment for sin by the blood of Jesus isn’t good enough. Now that’s an incredible

1 – Matthew 7:1; 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10

2 – Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

3 – Literal translation ([www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A37-38&version=AMPC](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A37-38&version=AMPC))

4 – Literal translation ([www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A37-38&version=AMPC](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A37-38&version=AMPC))

consequence of legally interpreting Luke 6. Jesus' blood is good enough to cover all sin, if not, which ones won't it cover – apart from blasphemy against Holy Spirit<sup>5</sup>. If we start listing sins and evaluating their seriousness, we are not living as New Covenant (NC) believers.

Thirdly, we need to be careful what doctrines we bring into the NC from the OT (OC). That includes everything up to Jesus' resurrection, and possibly up to the end of Acts 1. Jesus was living in the OC world of Israel and related to the people from that perspective. He spoke about the Kingdom and taught Kingdom principles, but not everything he said or did was NC. For example:

1. Keeping the Jewish feasts.
2. Serving the Passover meal.
3. Only forgiving a person 539 times (77x7).

Fourthly, there is no requirement in the Kingdom to forget an offence against you. The salient points are that we freely forgive them, that we release them, that we don't hold grudges, and that we don't brood over the offence. There are occasions where we do need to remember so we don't fall into a trap or offend another person in the future. If we always forget, we're prone to make continuing mistakes that should be avoided. It is right that God forgets our offences,<sup>6</sup> but we live in a fallen world and are still prone to being led by our flesh, so we need to guard ourselves by remembering our mistakes and habits that have offended others.

**IMPORTANT:** “Forgive and forget” is not scriptural – for those who need to be biblically correct.

In conclusion, We have a great deal of freedom in the Kingdom and this should not be quashed by fear of any sort. Concentrate on what Father is saying to you, continue in a repentant lifestyle, and let his grace deal with everything.

Laurence

25-9-2018

([www.CanberraForerunners.org](http://www.CanberraForerunners.org))

*COPYRIGHT*

*Quotes are the copyright of their authors.*

*Free graphics are from [www.clker.com](http://www.clker.com) & free photos are from [commons.wikimedia.org](http://commons.wikimedia.org).*

*This document is free to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'. It is free to quote from at length.*

*All Canberra Forerunners' documents are licensed under*

*Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License*

---

5 – Luke 12:10

6 – Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 38:17; 43:25