



Study 2

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS

Objectives

1. To understand who deserves our forgiveness.
2. To be able to make Christ our model of forgiveness.
3. To distinguish between God's unconditional love and His conditional forgiveness.
4. To help others experience the blessing of transactional forgiveness.

The young pastor had just preached another sermon on the need for Christians to forgive those who had hurt them. Several people responded at the end of the message. Some confessed their unforgiveness toward those who had hurt them. Some confessed that they needed to experience God's forgiveness for their own shortcomings. But one middle-aged woman responded and tearfully asked the pastor to pray for her as she had been struggling for years at the pain caused to her by her ex-husband who had left her for another woman. She quietly cried as she told the pastor, "I've tried to forgive him! I've tried to forgive him! But I just can't! Every time I think of him my stomach knots up and I feel ill. Please pray for me to be able to forgive him!" The pastor listened, and then asked, "Do you mind? Before I pray for you, can I ask you some questions?" She agreed. "Has your ex-husband ever asked for your forgiveness?" "No" she responded. "Do you wish him any harm for what he has done to you?" "No." "Do you trust him?" "Trust him? After what he did to me? Certainly not!" "And neither should you" replied the pastor, who continued, "it sounds to me that you have forgiven him but you have been confusing *trust* with *forgiveness*." The tearful lady looked at the pastor as if he had just lifted a heavy sack of potatoes from off of her shoulders.

28. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 3:39:59 pm

Luke 23:32 ¶ Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. Luke 23:33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

>> Luke 23:34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his

29. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 3:41:10 pm

Hopefully, people realise that Christ's heart was revealed in this episode as He was willing to forgive those who had wronged Him so terribly.

Secondly, I hope people noticed that Jesus did not say to His unrepentant accusers and executioners "I forgive you!"

Thirdly, I hope people noticed that those Jesus forgave did not deserve it!

30. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 3:51:31 pm

prayer

31. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 3:57:23 pm

Luke 5:21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

32. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 3:57:37 pm

Even when someone mistreats to *you*, they are still sinning against God, and while we can forgive them, they still need to be forgiven by God.

33. Dr. Andrew Corbett

8 August 2023 at 7:27:55 am

Sometimes it seems that there is little value. Yet, perhaps it may be the thing that brings a person to remorse and even repentance. As with all such exchange during an attempt at conflict resolution, it is wise to seek permission to raise such matters with the offender.

How To Forgive

We have seen that forgiveness begins in the heart of the offended when they relinquish their right to hurt the offender back. There are many ways to hurt someone back for what they have done to you including gossiping about them, undermining their reputation, slandering them, or even hurting them physically. Consider how someone's unforgiveness is revealed in this short exchange:

"I think Debono is such a nice person."

"Yes she is, until you really get to know her."

- 28 1. Describe what Christ modelled in Luke 23:32-34. What aspects of forgiveness do we notice in this episode?

29 _____

We notice in this episode that those Christ forgave, were undeserving, yet Jesus still released them from their debt of unresolved and unjust offence. But we also notice that Jesus began the process of forgiveness by p____r. We should also consider that He asked His Father to forgive those who had been party to Christ's mistreatment and abuse.

- 30

2. Why did Jesus ask His Father to forgive those who had been part of the His mistreatment? (Consider Luke 5:21)

31 _____

32 _____

Only those who have sinned can seek forgiveness for their sins from God.

Only God can forgive those who have sinned against Him.

3. What is the value in telling someone who intentionally hurt you that you forgive them? Discuss.

33 _____

34. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 June 2022 at 4:09:01 pm
New
35. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 June 2022 at 4:10:04 pm
2Cor. 3:6 who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
36. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 June 2022 at 4:12:22 pm
Jer. 31:31 ¶ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,
Jer. 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.
Jer. 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Jer. 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each 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 I will remember their sin no more.”
37. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 June 2022 at 4:16:21 pm
God was going to write His laws on the hearts of those who entered into the New Covenant with Him. That is, they would have a heart transformation and be filled with His Spirit with an inner desire to willingly serve and obey God gladly.
38. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 June 2022 at 4:21:35 pm
Luke 24:46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,
Luke 24:47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
39. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 June 2022 at 4:22:23 pm
There were to proclaim that since Christ had suffered and died for their sins against God, they could now repent and receive God’s forgiveness.
40. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 June 2022 at 4:56:00 pm
unconditional

Forgiveness is Core to Christianity

34 35 Christianity is referred to in the Bible as the ___ Covenant (2Cor. 3:6). The Old Covenant that God had with Israel was treated as if it was all about laws and rules.

4. How did the Prophet Jeremiah describe the coming New Covenant? (Jer. 31:31-34) That is, how would it be different to the Old Covenant?

36

37

38 5. How did Jesus sum up the gospel message in (Luke 24:46-47) that His followers would now proclaim everywhere?

39

The prophets declared that when the New Covenant would come, God would *forgive* the sins of the guilty. What kind of God would forgive the sins of those who had been so vile toward Him? The answer:

40 42 The God of _____ I love! (Note John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

43

6. Read Mark 2:1-12. What does this story reveal about God? Discuss.

44

While God’s love for people is unconditional, receiving His forgiveness is not!

45 7. In what way is receiving God’s forgiveness *conditional*? (Note Matt. 18:35; Luke 12:10; Acts 26:20; Heb. 4:16; 10:26; 1John 1:9)

46 50

51

41. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 4:57:08 pm

John 3:16 ¶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

42. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 4:54:15 pm

Rom. 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

43. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 4:59:39 pm

Mark 2:1 ¶ And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.

Mark 2:2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.

Mark 2:3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

Mark 2:4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

Mark 2:5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,

Mark 2:7 “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Mark 2:8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?

Mark 2:9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’?

Mark 2:10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—

Mark 2:11 “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”

Mark 2:12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and

44. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 4:59:52 pm

It at the very least reveals God’s heart to forgive people who come to Him.

Secondly, since only God can forgive sins against Him, it

that Jesus was God in the flesh.

45. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 5:03:26 pm

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46. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 5:04:02 pm

Luke 12:10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

47. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 5:14:39 pm

Acts 26:20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

48. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 5:10:35 pm

Heb. 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may

receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

49. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 5:11:10 pm

Heb. 10:26 ¶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

50. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 5:06:13 pm

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

51. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 June 2022 at 5:15:04 pm

God invites us to seek His forgiveness and mercy. In this way it seems that God's forgiveness of our sins is conditional upon us turning to Him in repentance, confessing our guilt, asking for forgiveness, and receiving His pardon.