Teach Us To Pray

“Praying for Forgiveness”

Bill Balbach, Associate Pastor November 14 & 17, 2019

Forgiveness is a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward someone who has harmed you, whether they deserve the forgiveness or not.

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” Matthew 6:12 (New International)

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Forgiving others is connected with experiencing God’s forgiveness.

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If we have an inability to forgive, we are destroying ourselves emotionally and spiritually as well as damaging the healthy relationships we have with others and with Jesus.

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“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.” Matthew 18:32-34 (New International)

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Forgiveness is a process:

1. Accepting the forgiveness that God offers through Jesus.
2. Resolving the bitterness in our heart, revoking the desire to get revenge.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (New International)

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1. Determine to do good rather than evil.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-21 (New International)

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True forgiveness ultimately is what restores the brokenness in our heart and soul.

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14-15 (New International)

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“Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword.” Matthew 26:52 (New Living)

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