

THE BOOK OF 11 CORINTHIANS

The Blessing of Forgiveness

Main Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Forgiveness starts with God
(Col 2:13-14, Neh 9:17)

Offense is a part of our world
(Lk 17:1, 2 Cor 2:5-11)

Offenders must be dealt with (v 5-8)
(1 Cor 5:4-5, 11; 2 Thes 3:15; Ex 34:6-7)

Unforgiveness must be addressed (v 9-11)
(Mat 5:44-45; 2 Cor 2:9-11; Mat 6:14-15; Eph 4:26-27, 30-32)

Forgiveness is ...

- not about you
- and it's not about the person who hurt you so deeply

Forgiveness is about God.
We forgive because:

- God has forgiven us
- God has commanded us to forgive
- God has given us the strength to forgive
- God will take care of judging the other person
- God means more to us than staying angry
- God matters more than the pain we feel
- God can be trusted to do right
- God is God and we are not

Dealing with Unforgiveness

When God reveals an area of unforgiveness and prompts us to address it:

1. Identify and acknowledge the offense(s) and the person(s) responsible.
2. Identify our emotional and decision-making responses to the offense.
3. Seek God's truth about the situation and repent of any lies we have believed about it or the people involved.
4. Pray for the offender.
5. Confess (acknowledge, take responsibility for our part) and repent (agree with God's viewpoint) for how we handled or reacted to the offense.
6. Deal with any vows, agreements or judgments we have made that are outside God's will.
7. Ask and choose to receive God's forgiveness.
8. Ask and allow God to heal, repair, and restore what was hurt/damaged.