

BIBLICAL FORGIVENESS

By Dr. Kent A. Field Ó 1997

Topical Study

There are many people in the world today who profess to be Christians, “followers of the Christ”, who like many people have been wronged by someone. They’ve been mistreated and abused. They’ve been taken for granted or worse. The purpose of this study is to answer several critically important questions. What does it mean when the Word says that “God has called us to peace”? This topical study is probably one of the most difficult to understand, accept and implement into our daily lives. But as we will soon learn it is also a critically pivotal point in our understanding of our own forgiveness and what really happens when God forgives us. Understanding God’s forgiveness and its qualities and results will help us to better understand what God is asking from us when He commands and requires us to forgive our neighbor.

Carefully study the following passages in your Bible. Answer each question *from the passages* listed with those respective verses. The answers to the following questions can be *clearly seen* within the passage. As you locate the answers *within the verses* given, COMPARE the Bible’s answers to how YOU might have otherwise answered those same questions. Any differences? REMEMBER! We’re **NOT** looking for your OPINIONS or FEELINGS or other subjective reasons why you may think you’re exempt here. In our search for Truth, we’re looking for *God’s answers* in the Bible to these important questions.

1. **Col.1:14, 20-22**

- What do we have in Christ? Our redemption and ? _____.
- The goal of God’s forgiveness is to _____ us to Himself and _____ through the blood of His Cross.
- According to verse 21, without forgiveness you are considered? _____ and _____.
- According to verse 22, Jesus shed His blood to _____ us to God and the result of this we are then presented _____ and _____ and _____.

2. **1Cor.1:8,9**

- When God forgives us we are considered to be what in God’s eyes? _____.
- God is faithful and because of His forgiveness we are called into what? _____.

3. **2Cor.5:14-20**

- In all matters, including forgiveness and reconciliation what is supposed to control us? _____.
- Whose will are we supposed to live for? _____.
- From verse 17, when we are forgiven what does God consider us as? _____, and what has passed away? _____.
- Through God’s forgiveness through His Son’s blood, what has He done to us? _____, and what has He given, in turn, to us? _____.
- From verse 19, what is the obvious goal of God’s forgiving us our sins? _____.
- From verses 18,19,20 the Word and ministry of salvation and forgiveness is also know as the Word and ministry of _____.
- From this entire passage we can clearly see that true forgiveness is equal to? _____.
- Then can there be true forgiveness without reconciliation? _____.

4. **Rom.5:8-11**

- When did God demonstrate His own love toward us? _____.
- When we are forgiven through the blood of Jesus we are also? _____ to God?
- What is it that we receive in God’s forgiveness that causes us to exult? _____.

5. **Matt.6:12-15**

- In what way will God forgive us our sins? _____.
- In order to forgive others their sins against us what will we have to avoid? _____.
- What will God do if we forgive men their trespasses against us? _____.
- What will God do if we DO NOT forgive men their sins against us? _____.
- Understanding that when God forgives us He restores our fellowship into our family relationship into his family, the church, and reconciles us (brings us back together) to Himself. Does it appear that there are two different kinds of forgiveness discussed here? God’s & Ours, or does it appear that there’s only one kind of forgiveness, and either we do it like God or we don’t!? _____.

6. **Matt.17:21-35**

- How many times are you supposed to forgive someone who sins against you? _____.

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- b) From verse 32, what is the person called in Heaven that does not forgive the same way God forgives? _____.
 - c) From verse 33, when we forgive others we are also showing them what? _____.
 - d) From verse 35, what did Jesus teach regarding our need to forgive others? _____.
7. **Mk.11:25,26**
- a) What are we supposed to do before we pray to God if we want our prayers heard? _____.
 - b) What must we do in order for our Heavenly Father to forgive us our sins? _____.
 - c) Did Jesus ever say that God wouldn't forgive us? _____ When? _____.
8. **Lk.17:3-5**
- a) What are we supposed to do if our brother sins against us and repents? _____.
 - b) What if he sins against you seven times a day, every day? _____.
 - c) What did the apostles realize it would take to practice this Will of God? _____.
 - d) Is our forgiving another person or how we forgive them appear to be optional to us? And at the same time remain faithful and forgiven ourselves? _____.
9. **Acts.9:19-31 & Gal.1:24**
- a) Considering that the apostle Paul was "Saul the Christian killer" and that many members of the church had friends and relatives that Paul tortured, imprisoned and killed.... Were the disciples suspicious of Saul's repentance? _____.
 - b) But how did the brethren fairly quickly respond to Paul's repentance and God's forgiving him? _____.
 - c) Did Paul enjoy the full fellowship of the faithful members of the church he had once persecuted? _____.
 - d) Did the Christians there forgive as God forgives? Bringing Paul back into full fellowship? _____.
10. **Matt.5:24,25**
- a) Will God truly accept our worship at His altar without reconciliation with someone with whom we have a problem or matter? _____.
 - b) When does God say we are to present our offering? _____.
 - c) Is there anything unclear or vague about what Jesus said here? _____.
11. **1Cor.7:10,11**
- a) From verse 10 we learn that a husband and wife should _____?
 - b) From verse 11, what is the goal of a troubled marriage or separation? _____ "or else be _____ to her husband".
12. **2Cor.2:6-11**
- a) From verse 7, when we truly forgive someone as God does we are also to _____ him.
 - b) Also from verse 7 give another reason why we should forgive our brother? _____.
 - c) From verse 8, what are we to do when we truly forgive someone? _____.
 - d) Verse 9, Is our obedience to God tested in our call to forgive? _____.
 - e) When we forgive as God does, or not forgive, we do it in Whose presence? _____.
 - f) Will Satan take advantage of us if we do not forgive, comfort and reaffirm our love? _____.
13. **Eph.4:26-32**
- a) How quickly are we supposed to address and resolve our anger at another person? _____.
 - b) From verse 27, why must we forgive so quickly? _____.
 - c) What are we commanded to lay aside when we truly forgive someone? _____.
 - d) from verse 32, How are we supposed to forgive one another? _____.
14. **1Pet.1:22-2:1**
- a) From verse 22, if we have truly been obedient to the Truth and had our souls purified what will we have? _____.
 - b) If we have truly been born again, what must we put aside? _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
 - c) Have you done this if you say you've forgiven someone, but refuse to have fellowship with them? _____.
15. **1Cor.12:31-13:8a**
- a) From Verse 12:31, Paul is showing us what? _____.
 - b) In light of our study on forgiveness, from verse 5, does love keep a record or an account of a wrong suffered? _____.
 - c) Does Love, Godly love, true love ever fail? _____.

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Is there someone that you say you've "forgiven", but you won't have anything to do with them?

Is there someone you say you forgive, but you can't stand their fellowship and company?

Is there someone you say you've forgiven, but you yet have to comfort them and confirm your love for them?

Is there someone you think you've forgiven, but you haven't yet been reconciled to them the way God forgives us and reconciles us to Himself through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ?

Do you really appreciate the prayer of Jesus on the Cross and God's forgiveness? ("Father, forgive them,. They know not what they do!")

What must you do to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit and demonstrate that you've been born again?

Are you forgiven?