

The Love of God Part III: Forgiving

TEXT: Matthew 18:21-35 (page 975 in the Pew Bible)

We must forgive others unconditionally, wholeheartedly, and completely...

1. *because _____ has forgiven _____ (vs. 21-27).*

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- Romans 5:6-8 / Romans 3:23-24
- Matthew 10:8 / John 13:34 / Ephesians 4:32

2. *because of our _____ to the _____ (vs. 28-31).*

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- Stephen: Acts 7:59 - 8:1
- Jesus: Luke 23:32-34
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3. *because God's _____ will rest on us if we _____ (vs. 32-35).*

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- Matthew 6:14-15 / Luke 6:37-38
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- Revelation 1:12-17 / Hebrews 10:26-31 / Hebrews 12:28-29

Six Tests of True Forgiveness

1. Do you have a desire to bring it up again? to talk about it? God doesn't.
2. Can you remember the incident without any negative feelings? What about talking about it? Do you have any anger? resentment? revenge? Spiritual healing is taking place when the instant replay of our victimization rolls in our mind and we have lost interest in watching it.
3. Can you thank God for the lessons learned in the pain?
4. Have you accepted your part of the blame for what happened?
5. Are you blessing those who hurt you? Do you have a desire to see the guilty party prosper, flourish, and abound in every possible area?
6. Can you revisit the scene without a negative reaction? Can you look the offender in the eye without being uncomfortable?