

"Joseph Forgives His Brothers"

- I. Our words about Joseph.
 - A. Choices
 - B. Flee
 - C. Serve
 - D. Love
 - E. Forgive

- II. Learning from Joseph. Genesis 37-50
 - A. He resisted sexual temptation. Genesis 39 (Choices), (Flee)
 - B. He served God even when falsely accused. Genesis 39-40 (Serve)
 - C. He kept a God-focus while in prison. Genesis 40 (Serve)
 - D. He trusted in the sovereignty of God. Genesis 50:20 (Love)
 - E. He was honest with his emotions. Genesis 42:24; 43:30; 45:1, 14-15; 50:17
 - F. He forgave those who hurt him. Genesis 50:16-20 (Forgive)

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"Forgiveness"

III. What Is Forgiveness?

- A. Forgiveness is a dismissing of a debt.
In the New Testament the Greek noun *aphesis*, denotes a “dismissal” or “release.”
- B. When you grant forgiveness, you dismiss the debt owed to you.
- C. When you receive forgiveness, your debt is dismissed. (You are released from any requirement for repayment.)
- D. When you grant forgiveness, you dismiss the debt from your thoughts.
- E. Jesus expressed the heart of forgiveness when He said, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.” Luke 6:27.
- F. Forgiveness is dismissing your demand that others owe you something, especially when.
 - 1. They fail to meet your expectations.
 - 2. They fail to keep a promise.
 - 3. They fail to treat you justly.
 - 4. Jesus said, “If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matthew 5:39).

IV. What Forgiveness Is Not.

Misconceptions abound when the word forgiveness is spoken. Some think forgiveness is the equivalent of excusing sin . . . saying that what was wrong is now okay. Yet when Jesus encountered the mob of men eager to stone a woman caught in adultery, while He chose not to stone her, never did He excuse her. Instead, He said, “Go and sin no more” (John 8:11, KJV). To help correct the confusion, you need to know what forgiveness is not!

- A. Forgiveness is not waiting for “time to heal all wounds” . . .
 - Time does not heal wounds—some people will not allow healing.
- B. Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation . . .
 - Reconciliation requires two people, forgiveness only one.
- C. Forgiveness is not explaining away the hurt . . .
 - But rather is working through the hurt.
- D. Forgiveness is not based on what is fair . . .
 - It was not “fair” for Jesus to hang on the cross—but He did.
- E. Forgiveness is not being a weak martyr . . .
 - But rather is being strong enough to be Christ like.
- F. Forgiveness is not denying the hurt . . .
 - But rather is feeling the hurt and releasing it.
- G. Forgiveness is not being a doormat . . .
 - That would make God the greatest doormat of all!
- H. Forgiveness is not conditional . . .
 - But unconditional, a mandate from God for everyone.
- I. Forgiveness is not forgetting . . .
 - To forgive you must remember.
- J. Forgiveness is not a feeling . . .
 - It is an act of the will.

V. “Is it possible to sin beyond God’s ability to forgive?” No.

1 John 1:9