

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

Scripture: *Colossians 3:13- Get along with each other and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you; forgive that person because the Lord forgave you.*

Jesus frequently spoke of the need to forgive others. Saying you are sorry might be the most important words you say. One of life's greatest challenges is to forgive someone who has hurt us. Holding on to unforgiveness can be unhealthy and deadly. If we are to walk the narrow path, we will have to learn to be quick to forgive. We must forgive others, if we don't want to disobey God and break our fellowship with Him. When we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Mark 11:22 reminds us that when we are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins. To forgive is not easy, but it is possible. You can do all things through Christ who will strengthen you; Phillipians 4:13. Never let things of yesterday rob you of your blessings of today because of unforgiveness.

Give God your pain and pray for the offender. If we desire to be healed from the hurt, we will give the gift that makes reconciliation and healing possible. Love is the primary antidote for forgiveness. When someone asks you for forgiveness, you have an obligation to grant it. Jesus first words from the cross, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Most importantly, we are learning that forgiveness is the way to reconciliation. Open up your heart to forgive today. Forgiveness brings peace and joy. So forgiveness from God to us is free and complete. Forgiveness, let's pass it on!

Prayer: **We thank you O Lord Jesus, for making the ultimate sacrifice and taking the punishment of our sins. You have forgiven us; help us to have a forgiving spirit and not hold grudges or become bitter because others have offended us. Help us to forgive them in the reconciliation of the Cross. In Jesus name, Amen.**

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