

The Process of Forgiveness 2

[Process of Forgiveness]

Forgiveness (Greek: Aphesis) – To pardon, to free, to release of **DEBT**

1. **Releases debt** to God.
(Matthew 18:21-35; Matthew 6:9-13; Acts 7:59-60)
2. **Releases people** to God and His **righteous judgment**.
(Vengeance is God's – Genesis 4:15; Romans 12:19)
3. Forgiveness **releases me** from being held hostage by **tormentors** (Matthew 18:34)
(Resentment, anger, bitterness, offense, grudges, malice...)
4. Forgiveness **shows and sows mercy**
Luke 6:36...Being merciful as our Father is merciful.

Micah 7:18 – “Who is God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He **delights** in **mercy**.”

5. Forgiveness **restores love** – Luke 7:36-49 (ref)
A certain creditor who had two debtors (\$5 and \$50 000)
The creditor forgave both debts
Which will love **more**! (vs. 47)

Vs. 47 (NKJV) – “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”
6. Forgiveness **releases healing**. – 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)
When we forgive, the healing of hurts and pains can begin.
7. Forgiveness is **limitless**
Luke 17:1-5 (NKJV)
Matthew 18:21-22 (ref)
7x70 times in forgiveness
There is no “3 strikes and you are out”
There's not 7 either

[It is reconciliation not forgiveness that is limited.]

Luke 17:3 (NKJV)

- Wrong committed
- Wrong confronted
- Wrong repented of -?
- Wrong forgiven

[Forgiveness is not dependent on reconciliation (trust)]

What if there is no repentance (reconciliation)?

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Habitual infidelity
- Physical or child abuse

Take Away

1. I choose to forgive...period. (Limitless)
2. The process of healing and freedom are mine – regardless of others responses.
3. Reconciliation depends on others (repentance) – How to reconcile? - See you next week!