

The church cannot set arbitrary limits on grace and mercy; it cannot reject a truly penitent individual, no matter how serious the sin was. ~John MacArthur, Commentary on 2 Corinthians. (Pg. 57)

*Forgiveness is Vital.*

1. Forgiveness is vital because it is \_\_\_\_\_.

A. By Paul

B. By Jesus. Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 6:12 ESV

➤ Granting forgiveness is not a suggestion or an option, it is a command.

2. Forgiveness is vital because it is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

• Luke 6:27-28, 35, Ephesians 4:32, Mathew 18:21-34

A. Have a forgiving spirit or attitude. Luke 23:34

*Believers are never more like God than when they forgive. ~John MacArthur, Commentary on 2 Corinthians. (Pg. 50)*

➤ We are to forgive because of how much we have been forgiven by God.

B. Not usurping God’s role. Romans 12:19-20

➤ Forgiveness is like it never even happened.

C. Forgiveness is a promise, an action not a feeling.



*I will not dwell on it.  
I will not use it against you in the future.  
I will not bring it up again to you or anyone else.  
I will not let it hinder our relationship.*

3. Forgiveness is vital because it \_\_\_\_\_ us.

A. From God not hearing our prayers. Psalm 66:18

B. From God not forgiving us. Matthew 6:14-15

C. From the poison of bitterness. Hebrews 12:15

*Bitterness is a prison. It is self-destructive; it is spiritual suicide. That’s why it’s often been said, “The bitter person drinks a vial of poison and waits for their enemy to die.” ~Paul Tautges biblicalcounseling.com post, May 3, 2023.*

4. Forgiveness is vital because it \_\_\_\_\_ others.

• 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

A. From being swallowed up.

*Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive. ~C. S. Lewis Mere Christianity Chapter 7, Forgiveness*

The aspect of forgiveness God spoke to me about is \_\_\_\_\_?

Forgiveness by Haley Satrom  
From Forgiven to Forgiving by Jay Adams  
Unpacking forgiveness by Chris Brauns  
Overcoming Bitterness by Stephen Viars

