

Series: After the Beginning
The Amazing Power of True Forgiveness
Part Ten: Forgiven and Forgiveness 101 – The Solution
(Developing a Biblical Theology of Forgiving and Being Forgiven)
Genesis 43:1-48:22

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Introduction and Review:

1. A HARD LOOK AT THE PROBLEM: (Correctly identify what is and what is not authentic forgiveness)

A. What True and Authentic Forgiveness is NOT:

- 1.) Forgiveness is not giving you one up.
- 2.) Forgiveness is not one way.
- 3.) Forgiveness is not keeping a record of wrong.
- 4.) Forgiveness is not distorting, ignoring or suppressing your true feelings.
- 5.) Forgiveness is not denying your bitterness and anger.
- 6.) Forgiveness is not ending open relationships.

B. What True and Authentic Forgiveness IS: (A story from the New Testament: Matthew 18:21-35)

- 1.) Forgiveness is realizing and admitting wrongdoing.
- 2.) Forgiveness is reaffirming love.
- 3.) Forgiveness is releasing the past.
- 4.) Forgiveness is renewing repentance.
- 5.) Forgiveness is rediscovering community.
- 6.) Forgiveness is forgiving as we have been forgiven.

C. Understand the Tragic Consequences of Living in a spirit of Un-forgiveness:

- 1.) You grieve the Holy Spirit and are handed over to the torturers.
- 2.) You are left with your own bitterness when everyone else has moved on.
- 3.) You make God your enemy inviting severe discipline.
- 4.) You lose any potential of anointing or personal ministry.
- 5.) You destroy your credibility through your tainted testimony.
- 6.) You give occasion to the world to discredit our faith and the veracity of the Scriptures.
- 7.) You lose fellowship with the Father and with other believers.

Today:

2. A GRATEFUL LOOK AT THE SOLUTION: (Choosing to live in Faith, Obedience and Victory!)

A. A Biblical Theology of Forgiving and Forgiveness.

- 1.) As much as it depends on you accept willingly and joyfully God's sovereignty and providential forgiveness and grace in your life.**
- 2.) As much as it depends on you take the log out of your own eye before criticizing the splinter in someone else's life.**
- 3.) As much as it depends on you grow in your trust of God and others.**
- 4.) As much as it depends on you initiate confession, reconciliation and peace:**

being forgiven and forgiving.

5.) As much as it depends on you speak the truth in love.

6.) As much as it depends on you overcome evil with good.

7.) As much as it depends on you give thanks in every situation.

8.) As much as it depends on you let the Word of Christ dwell richly in your life and learn to draw from the wellspring of God's truth in only giving godly, biblical counseling no matter the personal cost to you.

9.) As much as it depends on you extend extravagantly grace, mercy and forgiveness towards others as it has been so generously been given to you.

10.) As much as it depends on you live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit enjoying a life of JOY, PEACE, LOVE and FREEDOM!

Moment of Decision: The Skit Guys on "God's Chisel"