

**To Forgive or Not to Forgive,
That is the Question. Pt. 2
Mark 11:25; Luke 17:3-4**

Mark 11:25

²⁵ “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Luke 17:3–4

³ Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

Introduction:

James 4:1 (LSB)

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

If there is anything you learn by living a few decades is that conflicts will come and they will come often.

Just like it says in

Job 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Yet man is born to ***trouble***,

As the sparks fly upward.—its axiomatic -self-evident

אָמַל 'â^hmâl, *aw-mawl*˘; from 5998; *toil*, i.e. *wearing effort*; hence *worry*, wheth. of body or mind:—grievance (-vousness), iniquity, labour, mischief, miserable (-sery), pain (-ful), perverseness, sorrow, toil, travail, trouble, wearisome, wickedness.

Strong, J. (2009). In [A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible](#) (Vol. 2, p. 88). Logos Bible Software.

Proverbs 22:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ **Foolishness** *is* bound up in the heart of a child;

The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

אִלְמוּת (*'iw·wě·lět*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 200; TWOT 44c—LN
 32.42–32.61 **foolishness**, folly, i.e., a state of being
 devoid of wisdom and understanding, with a focus
 on the evil behaviors which occur in this state

Swanson, J. (1997). In [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew \(Old Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Romans 3:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ *“Their throat is an open tomb;*

*With their tongues they have **practiced deceit**”;*

“The poison of asps is under their lips”;

¹⁴ *“Whose mouth is full of **cursing** and **bitterness**....*

¹⁷ *And the way of peace they have not known.”*

There a reason for all of this and it goes all the way
 back to the garden of Eden, when God cursed the
 relationship between men and women.

Before the fall, there was no conflict, so lust, no
 self-will or self centeredness, no hurting one
 another, no cursing each other, or harming one
 another... There was no need for forgiveness
 because no one did anything to the other to need
 forgiveness.....until

Adam and Eve did not listen to God but rather
 listened to and followed the devil, and oh my, what

a tangled web we weave, when we practiced to deceive.

Well, as a result, God cursed it all.

He cursed the devil, the man and the woman, the beautiful birth of a child, He cursed every relationship even the relationship of marriage... He cursed the rose bush and even cursed the dirt.

Genesis 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ To the woman He said:

Your desire *shall be* for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”

We cant get past their first 2 boys with out conflict and murder

Genesis 4:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it.”

⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

It has been the same ever since and will be until the Lord returns. Conflict, War, unforgiveness and NO peace.

Romans 1:28–31 (NKJV)

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

But that is not where it is left. God did not create the world to leave it and not save a remnant.

He has and is saving a multitude of people that are being conformed into the image of Christ from one level of glory to another.

They are new Creatures who have the New man who can and will love to practice the Law of God.

But even with that, God had in his own wisdom left us here for a while to contend with our flesh and fight it's desire for conflict and to train us in grace and mercy and forgiveness so we can Reflect the Image of Christ.

And to live here is to ultimately live with conflict. Relationships bring conflict. We rub each other

wrong. We say things we shouldn't. We assume wrong things about others. We offend and are offended. We are the match that ignites the fire of conflict. If we were not here it wouldn't be any conflict. But because we are... it is. That doesn't mean we should avoid relationships and does not mean we don't attempt to try to get involved in one another's lives. It doesn't mean that we don't try to love one another as Christ loves us. And it doesn't mean that we have the freedom to avoid relationships just so we won't get hurt.

God uses others in our lives to make us more like him.

The Bible teaches that we should see conflict neither as an inconvenience nor as an occasion to force our will on others, but rather as an opportunity to demonstrate the love and power of God in our lives.

Ken Sande

Jones, Robert D.. Pursuing Peace (p. 29). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

As much as I would wish that this part of our sanctification were easy, I can assure you it is not.

And because of the problem, and abrasion and hurt that can come with a relationship, we must, we must learn to forgive.

So today I want to talk about this need to forgive on another. I want us to talk about the servant in Matt 18

Matthew 18:21–33 (NKJV)

²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’

So how do we do this.

FORGIVE those who wrong you, who harm you, who are your enemies or less than your enemies.

HOW

To be able to do this, we will need to understand a few things

And to do that we are going to build a house.

We are going to build a house that all of us can live in that will protect us from rain of bitterness that can saturate our soul and will provide for us warm grace filled place in the cold dark world we live in.

- 1. The Foundation** - God is a Forgiving God
- 2. The Floor** — Christ has Forgiven You
- 3. The Four Walls**— You must Forgive others
- 4. The Framed Roof**— Grace, Mercy, Trust.

1. The Foundation - God is a Forgiving God

A theme that clearly runs through the whole Bible is that God is a forgiving God. He Forgives sin and sinners and all sin is ultimately against God because to be a sin you have to violate or disobey His standard or his commandment.

Psalm 130:3–4 (NKJV)

- ³ If You, Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

4 But *there is* forgiveness with You,.....

Psalm 86:5 (NKJV)

5 For You, Lord, *are* good, and ready to forgive,
And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon
You.

God's forgiveness of us serves as our **motive** (we forgive because he forgave us) and our **model** (we forgive in the way he forgave us) for forgiving others. With the help of God's Spirit and the power of his enabling grace, God's forgiveness of us fuels us and frees us to forgive our offenders. It pushes us to pardon others the way God has pardoned us.

Jones, Robert D.. Pursuing Peace (p. 131). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

1. The Foundation - God is a Forgiving God

2. The Floor—Christ has Forgiven You

Colossians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all

trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

1. His Forgiveness is Generous or Comprehensive
2. His Forgiveness is Sovereign
3. His Forgiveness is Compassionate, Merciful and Gracious

²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷ **Then the master of that servant**

was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ **“But that servant** went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

³⁵ “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

1. The Foundation - God is a Forgiving God

2. The Floor — Christ has Forgiven You

3. The Four Walls – You must Forgive others

These walls are built for the purpose of guarding our hearts from the sinful attitudes of bitterness, anger and shouting, slander and malice toward those who have done you wrong.

These walls are built to insure if at all possible as much as depends on you, that we have reconciled relationships

These walls are also built to maintain our fellowship with God and to protect us from the chastisements of God.

Wall number 1 is built out of Mark 11:25

²⁵ “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Wall # 2 is built out of Luke 17:3-4

Luke 17:3–4

³ Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

Wall #3 is built out of Matthew 6:14

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Wall #4 is built out of Matthew 6:15

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Now some see a contradiction with wall #1 and wall #2.

Mark 11:25

²⁵ "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him

Luke 17:3–4

³ Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him

Some have argued that there is no such thing as unconditional forgiveness taught in the New Testament.

Some have gone as far as to say that if you teach unconditional forgiveness, it cheapens grace and makes forgiveness more therapeutic and helpful for the one forgiving than for the one being forgiven.

Others have said that if you take the whole of scripture together and don't isolate one verse from another then you will end up with conditional forgiveness.

To this charge would say that in some cases yes we need to be careful not to make a doctrine out of one verse and we do need to look at the whole of scripture. And in the Synoptic Gospels, (Matt. Mark. Luke.) sometimes the harmony of the teaching of Jesus is completed by adding the missing parts of one verse that are included in another gospel. But... it is also important to consider is this a particular teaching that this gospel writer left out, so that we have 2 separate points instead of just a harmony of the whole that is needed.

To the second, that unconditional forgiveness cheapens Grace, I would argue, that that is not possible.

First, because all forgiveness that is permanent can and is only purchased by the death of Christ, therefore it cannot be cheap.

And that it only therapeutic to the one forgiving and not the forgiven, is wrong. It is both and both are needed. We need to be helped with our bitterness and the offender is helped and encouraged by our love and compassion. There is nothing wrong with this.

Lastly, as far as it being contradictory or teaching two different things, I would say they are not contradictory but rather complementary. They are 2 sides of same coin and the coin is forgiveness. both must be present for the coin to even exist.

These verses can be added together like the synoptic gospels narratives and they can be taken individually to give a bigger picture of forgiveness that we need a bigger heart and attitude of forgiveness.

So which is it? Is forgiveness unconditional and generous and never ending regardless if there is repentance

Or is it Conditional, and limited and restricted to only those who repent and for the non-repentant, no forgiveness is granted.

What ever answer you arrive at will need to grapple with these questions

1. Am I to forgive unconditionally without reservation anyone who sins against me?

2. Am I only to forgive those who are willing to admit what they did was wrong and are willing to repent?

3. What if a person sins against me and never is willing to acknowledge it and continues to avoid me and my efforts to reconcile...do I forgive them?

4. What if a person truly did sin against me, but they disagree with my assessment of their sin and say that I am wrong and what they did was not a sin against me... do I still forgive them?

5. *What if someone sins against me and dies before we are able to reconcile... do I forgive them anyway?*

6. *What about the hundreds of people in a life time that do me wrong and don't even know I exist?*

That man who cuts in front of me on the highway making me miss my turn off the interstate which makes me late for my appointment

That person who takes the last roll of toilet paper that I was reaching for in the grocery aisle.

The person who backs into my car while I'm inside the restaurant and never lets me know.

The anonymous person who spreads lies about me on social media.

Do I forgive them or forever hold them in a state of unforgiveness?

Is my forgiveness unconditional, gracious, and generous with no boundaries or is it conditional and limited to those who repent?

Well the answer may surprise you. The answer is YES and NO
YES to BOTH.

It is unconditional and conditional

and sometimes it is conditional and all times it is unconditional

Let me explain

First

It is clear that the Bible makes statements that seem to teach the forgiveness should be Unconditional

Mark 11:25

²⁵ “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him,

Luke 23:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Acts 7:60 (LSB)

60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”

Also, many texts call us to overlook or cover over someone’s sins. Consider the following passages:

“Hatred stirs up dissension, / but love covers over all wrongs” (Prov. 10:12).

“A fool shows his annoyance at once, / but a prudent man overlooks an insult” (Prov. 12:16).

“He who covers over an offense promotes love, / but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends” (Prov. 17:9).

“Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; / so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out” (Prov. 17:14).

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; / it is to his glory to overlook an offense” (Prov. 19:11).

“Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matt. 5:39).

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36; cf. James 2:13).

“[Love] keeps no record of wrongs” (1 Cor. 13:5).

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Col. 3:13).

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins” (1 Pet. 4:8).

In each text, God calls us to overlook or minimize someone's offense. Overlooking, of course, does not mean denial. To overlook means recognizing that a sin has been committed but choosing to forgive that sin attitudinally and to absorb the consequence. To deny means refusing to even evaluate the other person's words or actions. When I overlook your sin, however, I conclude that you have sinned, but I determine to treat you graciously anyway.

Jones, Robert D.. Pursuing Peace (pp. 152-153). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

Second, it is also clear that the Bible seems to teach that forgiveness can only be granted to those who repent.

Luke 17:3–4

³ Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

Act 2 38

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 18:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

The solution to this apparent dilemma is not to eliminate one or the other or to dilute one or the other. Rather, we need to understand that there are 2 categories of forgiveness and within those 2 there are 2 kinds of forgiveness.

The 2 main categories are

1. Vertical —my relationship with God.

2. Horizontal—my relationship with man

1. Vertical —my relationship with God.

First In our Relationship with God we have two kinds of forgivenesses

1. Judicial Forgiveness

Judicial forgiveness forgives all of my sin because the sins against God have been punished already by Jesus dying on the Cross.

They are forgiven permanently, eternally, justly and graciously.

Judicial forgiveness makes me a son of God and brings me into the family of God

Judicial forgiveness keeps me out of Hell

Judicial forgiveness is the Judge forgiving the criminal

This the Thief on the cross.

This is the tax collector, crying have mercy on me, a sinner!

This is the Saul on the Damascus Rd.

This is the 3000 souls on the Day of Pentecost

2. Parental Forgiveness.

Parental forgiveness forgives me temporarily, justly and graciously.

Parental forgiveness frees me from chastisement because I already am a child of God

Parental forgiveness keeps me in fellowship with my father in heaven.

Parental forgiveness is the parent forgiving the child.

This is Peter after the resurrection, telling the Lord to depart from him because he is a sinful man,

This is the believer in I John 1:9 who continually confesses his sins, and Jesus is faithful to forgive him.

So already at the beginning when we are saved and become a Christian we are granted one kind of forgiveness and then throughout the Christian life are granted another kind of forgiveness, although we have been already judicially and permanently forgiven of all of our sins.

1. Vertical –my relationship with God.

2. Horizontal –my relationship with man

And I would argue that there are 2 kinds of forgiveness that we are to practice when it comes to each other and even our enemies.

1. Attitudinal Forgiveness –heart, disposition.

2. Transactional Forgiveness -relational, and reconciliational.

1. Attitudinal Forgiveness – heart, disposition.

Attitudinal forgiveness involves releasing the offender from our judgment, and entrusting him, ourselves, and the situation into God's hands. In forgiveness we decide to stop playing the role of judge

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord” (Rom. 12:19). “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?” (James 4:12). In other words, we let God be God. By faith we consciously lift the offender and place him before God the righteous Judge. Moreover, like Jesus, when facing mistreatment we entrust ourselves to God our Father:

Booker T. Washington: “I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him.”

Attitudinal forgiveness liberates us from the soul-shrinking poison of bitterness, anger malice and the temptation to slander

Jones, Robert D.. Pursuing Peace (p. 134). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

This Attitude of forgiveness is the heart attitude of

Mark 11:25

²⁵ “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **forgive him,**

It is the heart attitude of Jesus as He looks down from the Cross at those who are unjustly murdering Him.

Luke 23:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.**”

Its is the heart attitude of Stephen as he looks at the one throwing stones at Him to kill him!

Acts 7:60 (LSB)

Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”

This forgiveness is eager to forgive, quick to forgive, immediate and permanent. It is

gracious, compassionate, flowing with mercy and humility.

This is the heart attitude of
Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving (grace) one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; **even as** Christ forgave (graced) you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NKJV)

³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as** God in Christ forgave you.

Some contend that the word's "even as" or "just as" imply exactly as.

Well lets look at this.

Does this mean that forgiveness only comes at all times with repentance or even further, only with acknowledgement?

Some would argue that we are to forgive as Christ has forgiven us... i.e. repent and then I forgive.

But there is a huge glaring problem with this. There are many times that we don't repent of sins that we have committed. There are sins that we are not aware of or that we have done and forgotten, because we may not consider them a severe sin.

i.e We are are to do all things whether we eat or drink to the glory of God.

We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart soul and mind and strength all the time. And we are to love our neighbor as ourselves all the time.

WE are to give ourselves to God as a living sacrifice all of the time. Not being conformed to this world all the time.

It is practically impossible for us to remember all the sin we commit actively or passively as commission or omission.

You may die suddenly and never get the opportunity to repent of certain sins. So does that mean it is over. You only get forgiveness of the sins

you repent of. What if you miss one. All it takes is one.

Forgiving as Christ forgave includes an attitudinal forgiveness and an an transactional forgiveness.

Christ can forgive you even if you miss it because it is ultimately paid for and He can justly do so. And I would add so can you. You can have an attitude of complete and unconditional forgiveness.

Aren't we glad as christians that we dont live under the lack of grace and forgiveness that we offen extend to others.

Aren't we thankful that God is more gracious with us than we are with others.

I would really hate to see what the church would look like if the verse in Ephesians 4:32 read, God will forgive you just as you forgive others.

Well actually it does. just not in Ephesians or Colossians

Matthew 6:12–15 (NKJV)

¹² **And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.**

¹⁴ “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- 1. Attitudinal Forgiveness –heart, disposition.**
- 2. Transactional Forgiveness -relational, and reconciliational.**

Wall number 1 is built out of Mark 11:25

- 1. Attitudinal Forgiveness –heart, disposition.**

²⁵ “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Wall # 2 is built out of Luke 17:3-4

- 2. Transactional Forgiveness -relational, and reconciliational.**

Luke 17:3–4

³ Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

**Wall #1 of the Attitude of forgiveness.
mindset, disposition.**

has been built and will need to be connected to the second wall to become sturdy and strong.

___/In other words, the Attitude and mindset is I have forgiven and am ready to grant forgiveness now.

There are hundreds of people in a lifetime that you will never be able to grant forgiveness although you have forgiven them.

It may be the man who stole from you
The persons to took advantage of you

The person who cursed at you on the high way.

or the man who did violence to you family but died in the process.

___There are 1000s of example of people you will need to forgive and never be reconciled to.

But when opportunity avails itself and as much as depends on you

Work to build the second wall

which is transactional forgiveness.

This is the forgiveness that is granted to restore a relationship. This is as important for you as it is for the offender.

This is

Luke 17:3–4

³ Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

Matthew 18:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

This is the forgiveness of for the purpose of reconciliation to restore a broken relationship.

It requires confession and repentance on the part of the offender but also requires compassion, grace, mercy and immediate forgiveness on the part of the offended party if repentance is present.

This is the **Matt 18 servant** who comes to a fellow servant and begs for forgiveness confessing that he has a debt that he will no longer neglect but has repented and will pay.

So our house is coming along, The more we build, the better are protected from bitterness, anger, slander and the more we are saturated with grace, mercy and love.

1. **The Foundation** - God is a Forgiving God
2. **The Floor** — Christ has Forgiven You
3. **The Four Walls**— You must Forgive others

Wall #1

Attitudinal Forgiveness —heart, disposition.

I have already forgiven, because I am forgiven, and am ready to grant forgiveness.....

Wall #2

2. Transactional Forgiveness -relational, and reconciliational.

Having already prepared my heart with forgiveness, I am eager to forgive the one who repents and I am desirous to restore the relationship.

But there are 2 more walls and a Roof.

Wall #3 is built out of Matthew 6:14

¹⁴ “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Wall #4 is built out of Matthew 6:15

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Both of these walls are build on the Parental Forgiveness of God, Not the Judicial forgiveness. You have already been forgiven and made a son or daughter of God.

The Foundation and Floor have been built which is the Eternal forgiveness we have of all our sins because Jesus paid the price in His death.

But this is the Parental forgiveness of those who are already saved

These are essential to keeping the cold winds of bitterness out of your house.

With just the 2 walls up the cold will get in, you need to finish job and build the other two and add the roof .

Wall #3 is built out of Matthew 6:14

14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

This is a requirement for fellowship, communion, walking with the Lord.

As a believer, you cannot have unforgiving in you heart, ever.

If you forgive men what they do to you, God will forgive what you do to him.

And the Father/son relationship is restored.

But we also need

Wall #4 is built out of Matthew 6:15

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This is chastisement. God will make you pay, in a temporary sense by chastising us.

Matthew 18:28–35 (NKJV)

²⁸ “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴ And his master was

angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

³⁵ “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

It is a severe sin, not to forgive and is as far away from what God desires of you. So instead of allowing one of his children to act like the devil and and unbeliever. He will use the necessary measures to correct your action.

He will take you to the Woodshed

- 1. The Foundation** - God is a Forgiving God
- 2. The Floor** —Christ has Forgiven You
- 3. The Four Walls**—You must Forgive others
- 4. The Framed Roof**—Grace, Mercy, Trust.

We build the Roof next week

1 Corinthians 11:26–32 (NKJV)

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (NKJV)

e faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all *that*
you *do* be done with love.