

**Choose Forgiveness
Relationships – Part 4**
Life Church St. Louis – April 29, 2018
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Colossians 3:13b (ESV) ... if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

1. _____ God's forgiveness

1A. Realize the _____ of your sin

Matthew 18:24-25 (ESV) When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

1B. _____ God to forgive you

Matthew 18:26-27 (ESV) So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

2. _____ to forgive others

2A. Forgive other's _____ wrongs

Matthew 18:28 (ESV) But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

2B. Forgive with _____

Matthew 18:29-30 (ESV) So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

3. Resist holding a _____

3A. Unforgiveness leads to _____

Matthew 18:32-33 (ESV) Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

Matthew 18:34-35 (ESV) And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

3B. Unforgiveness removes _____ forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV) For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading & prayer.
 - Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
- Invite a friend for our series **Ruth-Rescued for Purpose** next Sunday.
- How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Choose Forgiveness Study Guide

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Intro. How would you define forgiveness?

Give some examples of when you would find it difficult to forgive someone.

What is the connection between the Lord's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others (Colossians 3:13b)?

How do you know when you haven't forgiven another person?

1A. In what ways are we like the first debtor in Jesus' story (Matthew 18:24-25)?

1B. How is the master in Jesus' story like Jesus (Matthew 18:26-27)?

1C. Explain how Jesus' death on the cross made forgiveness possible (Colossians 2:13-14).

1D. How would you explain forgiveness to someone who thought their sin was too big to be forgiven or someone who thought their sin was too small to need forgiveness?

2A. Why did the first debtor treat the second debtor so badly (Matthew 18:28)?

2B. What was the difference between the first debtor's debt and the second debtor's debt (Matthew 18:29-30)? How does this apply to us?

2C. How does forgiveness not say that the hurt committed was OK?

3A. What was the sin of the first debtor (Matthew 18:32-33)?

3B. How does unforgiveness lead to bondage in the hurt person's life (Matthew 18:34-35)?

3C. According to Jesus, why are believers required to always forgive others (Matthew 6:14-15)?

3D. What does a person's refusal to forgive another tell you about their relationship with God?