

MESSAGE 7: OFFERING FORGIVENESS

Parts 1-2

1. WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. BECAUSE _____

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
Eph. 4:32 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE _____

"To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do." Job 5:2 (GN)

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger!" Job 18:4 (GN)

"Some men stay healthy until the day they die... others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts." Job 21:23-25 (GN)

3. BECAUSE _____

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matt. 6:15 (NIV)

FORGIVING IS **NOT**...

- ... minimizing the seriousness of the offense
- ... instant restoration of trust
- ... resuming the relationship without any changes

II. HOW SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. RECOGNIZE _____

"There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins." Eccl. 7:20 (NLT)

2. RELINQUISH _____

"... Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it."
Rom. 12:19 (LB)

"Peter asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No,' Jesus replied, 'seventy times seven!'" Matt. 18:21-22 (NLT)

3. RESPOND _____

"... do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you."
Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

"Love keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

4. REFOCUS _____

"Put your heart right, reach out to God... then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more." Job 11:13-16 (LB)