

OFFERING FORGIVENESS

Building My Life on Values That Last
Rick Warren

1. WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. BECAUSE _____

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

2. BECAUSE _____

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

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger." Job 18:4 (GNT)

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

3. BECAUSE _____

"If you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:15 (NIV)

FORGIVING IS NOT . . .

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

2. HOW SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. RECOGNIZE _____

"Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins." Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT)

2. RELINQUISH _____

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

"Peter . . . asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'" Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)

3. RESPOND _____

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

"Love . . . keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV)

4. REFOCUS _____

"Put your heart right, Job. 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 (GNT)

Next Steps

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