

## The Challenge of Forgiveness

November 15, 2009

*Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No!" Jesus replied, "seventy times seven!"*

(Matthew 18:21-22 NLT)

### What Forgiving Others Is Not...

1. It is not Justifying their actions.
2. It is not Waiting for enough time to pass.
3. It is not Denying that you are hurt.
4. It is not Confronting them personally.
5. It is not Trusting them again automatically.

### Five New Testament Steps To Forgive Others...

**R**<sub>1</sub>emember how much I am forgiven.

*You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. (Colossians 2:13-14 NLT)*

*But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. (1 John 1:9 NLT)*

**R**<sub>1</sub>eflect on who I need to forgive.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*

(Psalm 139:23-24 NLT)

**R**<sub>1</sub>elease \_\_\_\_\_ the other person \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'" (Matthew 18:32-35 NLT)*

Releasing someone means to...

Forgive Instantly \_\_\_\_\_.

Forgive Completely \_\_\_\_\_.

Forgive Freely \_\_\_\_\_.

Forgive Repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_.

**R**<sub>1</sub>e-establish \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship \_\_\_\_\_.  
(as much as possible)

*Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible. (Romans 12:18 NLT)*

**R**<sub>1</sub>ecognize God's purpose in the process \_\_\_\_\_.

*Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord. Instead, do what the Scriptures say: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink, and they will be ashamed of what they have done to you."*

*Don't let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good.*

(Romans 12:19-21 NLT)

**Memory Verse**

*You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (Colossians 3:13 NLT)*

**MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...**

- Receive God's forgiveness into my life for (please circle): the first time/reaffirmation (*Admit: I'm a sinner. Accept: Jesus died for my sins. Ask: God forgive me. Allow: God to be Lord.*)
- Memorize Colossians 3:13.
- Receive prayer this week as I seek to forgive \_\_\_\_\_.
- Serve at PFMC by \_\_\_\_\_.

\*For more on the NT Challenge including daily reading schedule and the NT on audio visit:

[www.pulaskifmc.com/nt-challenge.html](http://www.pulaskifmc.com/nt-challenge.html)