

## "WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?" (Forgiveness Series – One)

**Question:** *"Do you have trouble forgiving?" (Matthew 18:35 / Luke 6:37 / Hebrews 12:15 / Matthew 18:7)*

### I. WHAT FORGIVENESS DOES NOT MEAN

*\*II Corinthians 5:21      \*Psalm 130:3-4      \*Romans 5:8      \*Matthew 18:15-16*  
*\*Matthew 5:23-25      \*Psalm 86:5      \*Matthew 5:44      \*Luke 7:47*  
*\*Psalm 32:1*

1. Forgiveness does not excuse nor justify offenses!

**Note:** God does not excuse our sins! He forgives them.

2. Forgiveness does not exempt us from seeking restoration with the offender!

**Note:** God is always ready to forgive!

3. Forgiveness does not mean that I have to forget!

**Note:** Some of the strongest relationships are the result of forgiving!

### II. WHAT FORGIVENESS DOES MEAN

*\*Colossians 3:13      \*I John 1:9      \*Psalm 103:3      \*Luke 17:3-5*  
*\*Colossians 2:13-14      \*Acts 7:57-60      \*Luke 23:34      \*Matthew 18:21-22*  
*\*Proverbs 24:17-18*

1. When a person asks, we forgive them!

**Note:** God forgives all sins and we should forgive all offenses.

2. When a person does not ask, we forgive them!

**Note:** God forgave our sins on the cross!

3. When we forgive a person, we release judgment to God!

**Note:** God forgives repeat offenders and so should we!