

Topic: Free to Forgive – Part 1  
Scripture: Ephesians 4:32  
Date: February 15, 2009

### **HOW TO FORGIVE OTHERS!**

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

The Bible encourages us to take four steps on the path that leads to forgiveness...

#### **STEP #1 - \_\_\_\_\_ TO ANY UNFORGIVENESS IN MY HEART!**

Mark 11:25 *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*

*Five problems with unforgiveness...*

1. Unforgiveness is an \_\_\_\_\_ not to confront our problems!
2. Resentment toward one person can \_\_\_\_\_ into other relationships!
3. You depend on others for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your personal life!
4. Unforgiveness allows the \_\_\_\_\_ to continue over and over again!
5. Unforgiveness prevents individuals from walking in the \_\_\_\_\_ and allows them to walk in the \_\_\_\_\_!

#### **STEP #2 - \_\_\_\_\_ TO FORGIVE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE OFFENSE!**

Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

Luke 23:34 *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

#### **STEP #3 - \_\_\_\_\_ HOW MUCH GOD HAS \_\_\_\_\_ ME!**

Matthew 18:23-35 *"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?'*

When we \_\_\_\_\_ we don't \_\_\_\_\_ !

Ephesians 2:1-3 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath...*

Luke 7:36-47 *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."*

#### **STEP #4 - \_\_\_\_\_ THE PERSON FROM THE \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 6:12 *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

The definition of forgiveness is "*the act of setting someone \_\_\_\_\_ from an \_\_\_\_\_ to you that is a result of a wrong done against you.*"

*Three parts to forgiveness...*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Remember that forgiveness is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ !

2 Corinthians 2:7 *"You ought to forgive"...*

Ephes. 4:32 (NASB) *And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other...*

Matthew 18:35 *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."*