

SERIES: "1ST THINGS 1ST – THIS IS WHAT WE DO"

MESSAGE: "WE FORGIVE"

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MARK 11:25, NLT. "When you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."

Clearly...

Forgiveness is a _____ to God!

As followers of Jesus, God _____ us and He _____
us to _____ and _____ forgiveness

LUKE 6:37-38, NLT. [Jesus] "Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

Regarding forgiveness, Jesus makes it clear...

We can't have it without giving it.

STEVE ARTERBURN. "Forgiveness flows two ways. We cannot separate **receiving** forgiveness from **extending** forgiveness."

MATTHEW 6:14-15, NLT. [Jesus] "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NLT. "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so **you must forgive others.**"

CHARLES KRAFT. "The habit of holding things against self, others or God results in the unforgiving person being bound up in captivity to the Enemy. This is why Jesus had so much to say about the necessity of forgiving."

HOW DO WE FORGIVE?

1. We _____ our condition

ROMANS 3:23, NLT. "Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

LUKE 11:3-4, NLT. "Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

2. We _____ to retaliate

ROMANS 12:19, NLT. "Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, 'I will take revenge; I will pay them back,' says the Lord."

PSALM 32:1, NLT. "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!"

STEVE ARTERBURN. "Forgiveness is nonnegotiable; it is the very essence of our faith."

3. We _____ in love

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1, NLT. "Let love be your highest goal."

PROVERBS 17:9, NLT. "Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends."

4. We _____ the person who has wronged us and we move on

MATTHEW 18:21-22, NLT. "Then Peter came to him [Jesus] and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'"

EPHESIANS 4:31-32, NLT. "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."