

The Freedom of Forgiveness

MATTHEW 18:21-35



Definition of Forgiveness

noun

Forgiveness is the act of pardoning someone for a wrongdoing or offense.



Seriousness of Forgiveness

"For 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 6:14-15



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Approving of what someone else did.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Approving of what someone else did.
- ▶ Pretending that evil never took place.



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- ▶ Approving of what someone else did.
- ▶ Pretending that evil never took place.
- ▶ Making excuses for other people's bad behavior.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Approving of what someone else did.
- ▶ Pretending that evil never took place.
- ▶ Making excuses for other people's bad behavior.
- ▶ Justifying evil so that sin somehow becomes less sinful.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

▶ Overlooking abuse.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Overlooking abuse.
- ▶ Denying that others tried to hurt you repeatedly.

Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Overlooking abuse.
- ▶ Denying that others tried to hurt you repeatedly.
- ▶ Letting others walk all over you.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Overlooking abuse.
- ▶ Denying that others tried to hurt you repeatedly.
- ▶ Letting others walk all over you.
- ▶ Refusing to press charges when a crime has been committed.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Forgetting the wrong that was done.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Forgetting the wrong that was done.
- ▶ Pretending that you were never hurt.

Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Forgetting the wrong that was done.
- ▶ Pretending that you were never hurt.
- ▶ That you must restore the relationship to what it was before.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ Forgetting the wrong that was done.
- ▶ Pretending that you were never hurt.
- ▶ That you must restore the relationship to what it was before.
- ▶ That you must become best friends again.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ There must be a total reconciliation as if nothing ever happened.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ There must be a total reconciliation as if nothing ever happened.
- ▶ That you must tell the person that you have forgiven them.



Misconceptions of Forgiveness

*It does **not** mean:*

- ▶ There must be a total reconciliation as if nothing ever happened.
- ▶ That you must tell the person that you have forgiven them.
- ▶ That all negative consequences of sin are canceled.

Forgiveness A Matter of the Heart

Choice

A diagram consisting of a green rounded rectangle on the left containing the word "Choice" in white text. A small, light green arrow points from the right side of this rectangle to the left side of a large, light blue rectangle that occupies the right half of the slide.

Forgiveness A Matter of the Heart

Choice



Process



Forgiveness A Matter of the Heart

Choice



Process



Done