

Title: Forgiveness

Text: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." 2 Corinthians 2:14

† Our first tendency is to be too lenient on sin

† Our second tendency is to be too harsh on the sinner
Corinthians 5:3-7; Matthew 18:21-22; Galatians 6:1

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Unforgiveness

- hurts my relationship to God
- affects my ability to hear God
- hinders my prayer life
- warps my personality
- hardens my countenance
- robs my joy and peace with God
- harms my relationships
- creates turmoil in my marriage
- scars my children
- harms my health

† Forgiveness affects my attitude and emotional response toward those who offend me

† Forgiveness clears a person's record with me, and transfers any responsibility for punishment to God

6 lessons about forgiveness from God's point of view

1. Forgiveness involves a positive attitude toward the offense rather than a negative attitude toward the offender 1 Peter 2:19-23
2. Forgiveness sees the offender as an instrument in God's hand Psalm 76:10; Romans 8:28
3. Forgiveness allows the hurt to draw attention to my offender's spiritual needs Luke 23:34
4. Forgiveness rejects bitterness as a type of vengeance or punishment Romans 12:19
5. Forgiveness recognizes that the offender is already experiencing the rebukes of life Proverbs 15:17
6. Forgiveness involves cooperating with God in my offender's life Romans 12:19-21