

## Do I have to forgive to be forgiven?

For what reasons might someone ask this question?



When have you found it difficult to forgive someone?

What do the following passages teach us about forgiveness?

*The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom 3:22-26)*

*Our Father in heaven...forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Mt 6:9,12)*

*For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses. (Mt 6:14,15)*

*Then Peter approached him and asked, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?"*

*"I tell you, not as many as seven," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven.*

*"For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, one who owed ten thousand talents was brought before him. Since he did not have the money to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.*

*"At this, the servant fell facedown before him and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything.' Then the master of that servant had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan.*

*“That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, ‘Pay what you owe!’*

*“At this, his fellow servant fell down and began begging him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he wasn’t willing. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed. When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened. Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed. So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart.” (Mt 18:21-35)*

*“Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.”. (Lk 23:34)*

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. (Eph 4:32)*

*Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. (Col 3:12,13)*

Determine whether each statement below is true or false. Then explain why.

T / F If we forgive others, God will forgive us.

T / F God forgives us because we forgive other people.

T / F If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive our sins.

How would you answer today’s question?