

# Sin 101

## Lesson 6

### Un-forgiveness

#### PART I EXPLANATION

**Introduction:** The sin of unforgiveness is of a very serious nature because God promises that He will not forgive those that will not forgive others. The sin of unforgiveness should never be found in the life of a Christian of all people. The Bible gives a stern warning that if you are unforgiving that you need to seriously question whether you are a Christian yourself. It is so contrary to common sense for a person who has been forgiven by God of every sin to be unforgiving toward another. We owed a debt that could never be repayed in a thousand lifetimes. What argument could possibly be offered in defense of such behavior?

It is utterly ridiculous to not forgive any sin regardless of the severity or the frequency of the offense. That doesn't mean that it is always easy to forgive. Our inherent sense of justice demands right treatment. However, we must always remember that we never want to receive justice from God. If we got what we deserved for one sin against a holy God we would be banished to hell for eternity. The best way to deal with injustices received from others is to remember and reflect upon the forgiveness received from Christ. The Bible uses the forgiveness of Christ as our standard in forgiving others. "*As Christ forgave you so also do ye.*" When we contemplate that every sin we have ever committed was a sin against God and that He has forgiven every single offense for eternity it should be impossible to remain implacable. If that fails to change your perspective it is an indication of a heart yet in the bondage of sin. To do so is to indicate clearly that you are not a partaker of the Divine Nature.

The Bible gives clear instruction on how to deal with those that sin against us, which was dealt with in the lesson in discipline. If they sin against us, we are to rebuke them. That is our responsibility to watch over each others lifestyles. If the individual fails to respond to our rebuke, we are to take another witness or two to verify the validity of the claimed offense. If they refuse to repent before two or three witnesses, it is to be taken before the church to decide the validity of the offense. If they fail to respond to the voice of the church, they are to be disciplined or excluded from fellowship.

However, the true difficulty doesn't come in following these rules of discipline but when the individual responds to the discipline. If the individual at any time repents, we are to instantly forgive them as Christ forgave us. If the discipline is carried out and at any time the offender exhibits genuine repentance, we are expected to receive him back with forgiveness, love, and comfort to prevent the devil from taking advantage of the situation. We are also instructed to receive them back with meekness lest we ourselves are tempted and fall in the same way because of being blinded by pride. What seems quite simple in theory is often quite difficult in practice.

These guidelines are imperative to a healthy church. Failure to deal with the inevitable offenses that arise in the church can only result in division and discord and will eventually destroy a church. It is inviting the devil to magnify offenses and sow discord among the brethren. Forgiveness is a heart matter that is not easily and quickly dealt with. It requires genuine brokenness and diligence to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Discipline that fails to bring about true forgiveness only serves to further embitter and alienate the saints of God.

**Definitions:** *For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Unforgiving** -

**Implacable -**

**Forgive -**

Greek: (786) **aspondos** *as'-pon-dos*

5483. **charizomai** *khar-id'-zom-ahee*

Hebrew: (5545) **salach** *saw-lakh'*

(5375) **nasah** *naw-saw'*

**Quotation:**

“We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven: let us look into our hearts, and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt but God has forgiven us.” Thomas Watson

“Our forgiving of others will not procure forgiveness for ourselves; but our not forgiving others proves that we ourselves are not forgiven.” John Owen

“Sins are so remitted, as if they had never been committed” Thomas Adams

“No child of God sins to that degree to make himself incapable of forgiveness.” John Bunyan

“God blots out not only the cloud but the thick cloud, enormities as well as infirmities.” Thomas Watson

“The sin which is not too great to be forsaken, is not too great to be forgiven.” Thomas Horton

“Whenever God pardons sin, He subdues it. When men’s persons are justified, their lusts are mortified. There is in sin a commanding and a condemning power. The condemning power of sin is taken away when the commanding power of sin is taken away. We know our sins are forgiven when they are subdued.” Thomas Watson

“He that demands mercy, and shows none, ruins the bridge over which he himself is to pass.” Thomas Adams

“A man may as well go to hell for not forgiving as for not believing.” Thomas Watson

“By revenge thou canst but satisfy a lust, but by forgiveness thou shalt conquer a lust.” John Flavel

“Whilst wrongs are remembered they are not remitted. He forgives not that forgets not.” John Trapp

“He shed tears for those that shed His blood.” Thomas Watson

**Confessions** (Look up and read these articles)

**London Baptist Confession of 1689**

Chapter 6: of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the punishment - paragraphs 1-5

**PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. Why is the sin of unforgiveness such a serious offense?
  
2. Why is it so ridiculous for a Christian not to forgive all manner of offenses?
  
3. What does the sin of unforgiveness indicate?
  
4. What is the standard we are to use in forgiving others?
  
5. What is the best way to deal with injustices that we are having difficulty forgiving?
  
6. What responsibility does each church member have toward their brother who is overtaken in a fault?
  
7. What are you to do when a person fails to repent of your rebuke? Why?
  
8. When are cases to be brought before the church? Why?
  
9. What is expected if the offender genuinely repents at any point in the process? How are they to be treated?
  
10. Why are these guidelines for dealing with sin in the church so important?

**Key Scriptures:** (Look up these verses and fill in the blanks)

Genesis 50:15-21 Joseph's brethren were deeply concerned that Joseph would \_\_\_\_\_ them and \_\_\_\_\_ them for wronging him. When they requested forgiveness Joseph

\_\_\_\_\_ and reassured them by reminding them that he was not in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. He revealed the genuineness of his forgiveness by proceeding to \_\_\_\_\_ them and to speak \_\_\_\_\_ unto them.

Psalm 32:1 It is a great blessing for the Christian to realize that their transgression is completely \_\_\_\_\_ and that their sin is \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 86:5 The Lord's goodness is described by His readiness to \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 5:43-48 The true children of God, who will resemble their heavenly Father, will \_\_\_\_\_ even their enemies, \_\_\_\_\_ those that curse them, and will \_\_\_\_\_ for those who wrong them. Even publicans and sinners love in return those that \_\_\_\_\_ them.

Matthew 6:12-15 A very severe warning is given to those who will not \_\_\_\_\_ other men's trespasses, because God promises that He will not forgive \_\_\_\_\_ trespasses.

Matthew 12:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_ sin will be forgiven except the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Ghost. That sin will neither be forgiven in \_\_\_\_\_ world or in the world to \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 11:25-26 In order to have our prayers answered we must \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 17:3-4 If your brother sins against you, you are to \_\_\_\_\_ him. If he \_\_\_\_\_ then we are to forgive him, even if he sins against you \_\_\_\_\_ times in a \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 23:33-34 Jesus prayed His Father to forgive those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Acts 7:54-60 Stephen prayed for God to forgive those who \_\_\_\_\_ him and asked God not to lay that sin to their \_\_\_\_\_.

II Corinthians 2:6-11 When referring to a man that the church had exercised discipline against, when the man repented and returned, he told the Corinthians that the punishment that the punishment they inflicted had been \_\_\_\_\_ . He then instructed them to \_\_\_\_\_ him and to \_\_\_\_\_ him lest he be overwhelmed with \_\_\_\_\_ . He asked them to be sure to \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ toward him so that \_\_\_\_\_ would not be able to gain an \_\_\_\_\_ over them because we are not \_\_\_\_\_ of his devices.

Galatians 6:1 Here Paul explains how to \_\_\_\_\_ a man who had been disciplined from the church; in the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent the devil from tempting them.

Colossians 2:13 Because of Christ God has forgiven us all \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 3:13 Our standard of forgiveness is the way \_\_\_\_\_ forgave us.

**Key Chapter(s)** (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Genesis 50

### **PART III EXPECTATION**

**Memory verse:** Ephesians 4:32

**Personal Definition:** (*Write a definition in your own words*)

unforgiving -

**Personal Application:** Identify one sin of un-forgiveness in your life (past or present) and go to that person (in person, over the phone, or by letter) and make it right.

**Meditation question:** (*be prepared for discussion*) Why is an unforgiving spirit such an adequate indicator of a person's true spiritual condition?

**Extra Credit:** Identify a past injustice or offence that you received and think of five ways that you have committed the exact same offence against other people and ultimately against God.