



Love Is... | Week 3
Bill Bush | 12.03.2022

BIG IDEA | Forgiveness is a *BLESSING*, *NOT* a burden.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT)

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. *It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.*

FORGIVENESS IS NOT...

- *A feeling.*
- *Forgetting* what happened.
- *Minimizing* the seriousness of what happened.
- *Conditional.*
- *Resuming* a relationship without changes.
- *Forfeiting* justice.
- *Weakness.*

What forgiveness *is*... *Letting go* of sin.

Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

²³ “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸ “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

³¹ “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Forgiveness is a blessing because it is *GREATER* than the alternatives.

FORGIVENESS > *REPAYMENT*

FORGIVENESS > *REVENGE*

FORGIVENESS > *RESENTMENT*

“Of all the deadly sins, resentment appears to be the most fun. To lick your wounds and savor the pain that you will give back – is in many ways a feast fit for a king. BUT THEN – it turns out that what you are eating at the banquet of bitterness is your own heart. The skeleton at the feast is you. You start holding a grudge, BUT in the end the grudge holds you.” - Frederick Beuchner

When is hurt greater than my call to forgive? *NEVER!*

***Relinquish* my right to get even.**

***Respond* to evil with good.**

***Repeat* as often as necessary.**

The key to forgiving is to stop thinking about what’s been done to you and *start thinking* about all that Jesus has done for you.