

# Why Should You Forgive?

## (Ephesians 4:32)

Have you ever been hurt by someone? Have you ever been treated unfairly or taken advantage of?

How are we suppose to react when the person who has done us wrong comes to us asking for forgiveness and another chance? God commands us to forgive that person. Why?

### I. Because God \_\_\_\_\_ it.

A. See Luke 17:3-4.

1. When a brother sins, we are to help him see the error of his ways.
2. If he repents we are to forgive him.
3. The Lord uses the number “seven” figuratively to say that no matter how many times our brother sins against us, when he repents we must forgive him.

B. Other key verses:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (again the number being used is NOT to be taken literal. The Lord is figuratively emphasizing that there is no limit to the number of times we are to be willing to forgive a brother.
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Forgiveness can be hard to do. But if we really want to be followers of Jesus, then we must do it! See John 14:15; Luke 6:46.

### II. Because God won't \_\_\_\_\_ if we don't.

A. Key verses:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ephesians 4:31-32

B. Consider the parable of the story of the unmerciful slave (Matthew 18:23-35).

1. There was a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.
2. One of his slaves owed him ten thousand talents of silver (a tremendous amount of money!) and could not repay. The king then called for the slave and his family to be sold (verse 25).
3. The slave then begged and the king had mercy and forgave the debt.
4. This slave then found a fellow slave who owned him a hundred denarii (a denarii was the average days wage for a worker). The slave begged for more time to pay the debt, but the unmerciful slave was unwilling. He actually threw him in jail!
5. When the fellow slaves found out, they went and told the master. The master was angry and treated the unmerciful slave in the same way he treated his equal.
6. God (the Master) has forgiven us of a debt (sin) we cannot pay back. And yet, sometimes we can't forgive our equals of much smaller offences!

### III. We will be more like \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

A. While dying the worst possible death, Jesus had a forgiving heart towards His enemies (Luke 23:34).

B. How much more should we be willing to do the same?