

How To Get Free

Forgiveness

People hurt people!

- It happens inadvertently and on purpose.
- We wound with our words, our attitudes, our actions or lack of actions.
- The person that is hurt can become a prisoner of unforgiveness...

To **forgive** is to give up resentment of someone, or a claim to retaliation or revenge.

The Word of God tells us how to deal with being wronged... it may surprise you!

- Forgive as God forgave us. Ephesians 4:31-32
 - He didn't overlook or downplay our sins, He paid for them! I Peter 3:18
 - He forgave us when we repented and asked.
Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:13
 - Principles to apply from this...
 - Acknowledge the wrong done to you, don't explain it away.*
 - You can only forgive those who repent and ask for it. Luke 17:3*
 - You have been forgiven much, so choose to forgive freely.*
Luke 17:4; Matthew 18:21-34
- Even when the offender doesn't repent and ask forgiveness, we must have a heart of forgiveness! Matthew 18:35; Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:12, 14, 15
 - God has a heart to forgive. Luke 23:33-34; II Peter 3:9
 - When we don't have a heart of forgiveness, God is displeased and disciplines us.
 - When we don't have a heart of forgiveness, we hurt others as well as ourselves. I Corinthians 12:26; Galatians 6:7-10

How can we continue to forgive others? Colossians 3:12-15

- Clothe yourself with the right heart attitudes. Vs. 12
- Make an effort to understand and bear with others. Vs. 13a
- Choose to forgive as you have been forgiven. Vs. 13b
- Clothe yourself with the love of God which glues us together in unity. Vs. 14
- Let Christ's peace be the ruler of your heart. Vs. 15