

# Grace-Based Marriage: Forgiveness

May 3, 2009 Matthew 18:21-35

## How often does Jesus want us to forgive?

Not just seven times; seventy times seven. Always. Constantly.

## What keeps us from forgiving?

The pain of loss and the pain of injustice.

These combine to make us want to get back at the ones who've harmed us:

- Nursing grudges
- Feeling anger or bitterness
- Silent treatment
- Doing things against them

## What does it mean to forgive?

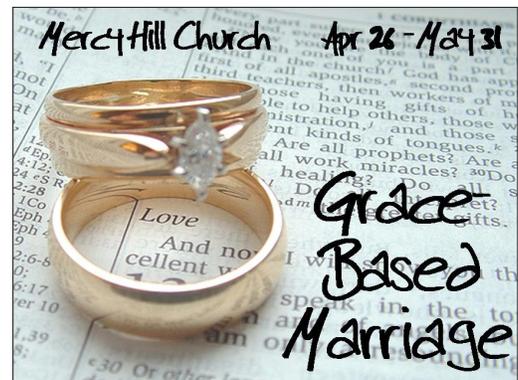
V.33, the king had mercy. V.27, the king forgave the debt.

So forgiveness means mercifully not holding someone's sin against them.

This doesn't mean we are doormats; but it means we do everything from love; nothing from revenge.

## How is forgiveness possible?

When we see God's forgiveness for what it is, our sense of injustice will be dissolved by the mercy of His forgiveness, and our sense of loss will be swallowed up by the benefits of His forgiveness.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

(This might be a good week to have men and women meet on their own. It's crucial that this not be a time when we talk about the faults of our spouse. Go out of your way to speak honorably of them. Focus on your own issues and needs.)

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What are some ways this passage has been impacting you?

How can you tell if you have or have not forgiven your spouse (or someone else)?

Is there anything for which you have not forgiven your spouse (or someone else)?

In the past, how have you tried to go about forgiving someone? How did Sunday's passage change your approach?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

