



The Faith to Forgive

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

¹ One day Jesus said to his disciples, “There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting! ² It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin. ³ So watch yourselves! “If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. ⁴ Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.” ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Show us how to increase our faith.” **Luke 17:1-5 NLT**

⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! **Matthew 5:43-44 NLT**

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:32 NLT**

¹⁴ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. **Matthew 6:14-15 NLT**

1. What forgiveness is not

- Forgiveness is not **forgetting**
- Forgiveness is not **fair**
- Forgiveness is not **easy**

¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. ¹² He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. **Psalm 103:10-12 NLT**

2. What forgiveness is

- Forgiveness is **giving others** what God **gave you**
- Forgiveness doesn't just **flow to us**, it **flows through us**
- Faith enables me to see an opportunity for **freedom** where others see only an **offense**

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. **1 John 1:9 NLT**

Next Steps:

- I forgive _____ for what they have done to me. I cancel their debt to me and place it in God's hands.
- I ask God to increase my faith so I can trust him and forgive others
- I will work on my “flow” by forgiving others just as God has forgiven me
- Re-read today's Bible verses this week
- _____



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