

Unreasonable Obedience

Lesson 1 – Unlimited Forgiveness

Series Overview

The obedience to which Jesus calls his followers goes beyond what feels _____
or even _____.

Jesus never commands anything he doesn't also _____ in His people,
because these commands are meant to remind drive us to _____ on Him

Question: What are some commands in Scripture that can seem unreasonable?

What is forgiveness?

Forgiveness is the decision to _____ someone from the _____ their sin has created
To forgive someone's debt requires you to _____ it yourself

What Forgiveness Is Not (a brief uncomprehensive list)

Forgiveness is not pretending sin didn't happen
Forgiveness can be immediate; trust takes time
Forgiveness is not necessarily removing consequences
Forgiveness does not require staying in harm's way

How many times should I forgive?

Matthew 18:21

Peter offers a suggestion of forgiving the same person _____ times
Rabbinic tradition taught that someone who forgave _____ times had a forgiving spirit
Peter thought he was being _____

Matthew 18:22

Jesus answers with an unreasonable amount of times (either 77 or 70x7)
to signal that Christians should forgive without _____

How is this possible?

Matthew 18:23-35

We owed an _____ debt that God has forgiven in Christ
When we _____ spiritual payment for wrongdoing against us,
it is because we fail to grasp _____ we've been forgiven

When you forgive, you are _____ justice, you are _____ it to God

Romans 12:19

The person you are forgiving will either _____ for their sins _____,
or they will have their sins _____ by _____, just like you have.

Question: What are some of the ways we demand payment for wrongs done against us?

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you
CS Lewis, "On Forgiveness," 135-36

The Four Steps of Forgiveness

Step 1 – Face the _____

Whether you are the one who has sinned, or the one sinned against,
it is important to _____ the sin without _____
Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 51:3-4

Why are we tempted to forego this step?

Step 2 – Feel the _____

We must see ourselves as those who are in need of tremendous _____

We approach sinners as _____
Matthew 7:3-5; Romans 2:1; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Titus 3:3-5

What makes it difficult to have compassion toward some sins?

Step 3 – Give up your _____

You have a right to exact payment; but the gospel calls you to give up that right
because of two reasons:

- because God has _____ payment from you
- because God's justice is _____ and yours is _____

1 Corinthians 9:12, 13:5; Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness that must be _____ is simply another way
of exercising _____ over someone else
and that means that it's not _____ forgiveness

Step 4 – Pursue _____

_____, aim for reconciliation and peace –
Rom. 12:18; Eph. 4:3; Heb. 12:14

even over _____ – **Matthew 5:23-24**

Forgiveness is not an _____ to the gospel, it is at the very _____ of the gospel

If we follow Jesus, we _____ – **1 John 4:20-21**