

March 5, 2016
Camelback Bible Church

Becoming the Kind of Person Who Forgives

- 1 - **Forgiveness never denies or minimizes wrong.** It speaks the truth in love.
- 2 - **When I forgive, I accept 1) God's role 2) my role.**
 - + God's role—to judge. This is not my role. If I refuse to forgive, I sit as judge.
 - + My role—to respond to being wronged in ways that heal. Jesus teaches me how.
- 3 - **All of us have suffered wrong**—the consequence of badly damaged humanity. Wounded people wound people.
- 4 - **God has made each of us responsible for our own decisions.**
 - + My enemy is responsible for decisions he/she made to wrong me.
 - + I am responsible for how I am going to respond.
- 5 - **Learning how to respond correctly** is a crucial component of my maturing.
- 6 - **My well-being cannot depend on someone else's choices.** I have no control over other people's choices. My well-being must depend on my choices.
- 7 - **Being dependent on other people's choices** leads to anger, insecurity, bitterness. I see myself as a victim. Assuming a victim role traps me in immaturity.
- 8 - **As a disciple of Jesus, I am never a victim.** I have a heavenly Father. To be able to live well, I must know that my Father has done well by me.
- 9 - **Feeling wronged is not necessarily the same as being wronged.** What role have my own words and actions played in the hurt I have experienced?
- 10 - **Embracing anger, bitterness, hatred only wounds me further.** I am hurt more by my own wrong responses than by anything my enemy has done to me.
- 11 - **On the cross Jesus made provision** 1) for my guilt to be removed 2) my wounds to be healed 3) the power of sin in my behavior to be broken.
- 12 - **Bitterness reveals I have been inadequately loved.** If I look to someone else to meet my need, I am looking to the wrong person.
- 13 - **Perhaps, for now, I cannot forgive.** But I *can* choose to become Jesus' disciple. He teaches me how to become the kind of person who forgives.
- 14 - **When I choose to become Jesus' disciple, trusting him to teach me how to forgive,** I choose my own healing.

* * * * *

A prayer to forgive: *Father, I am afraid ... I am afraid that I will be hurt again. But because of Jesus, I make the decision to forgive the one who has hurt me. Father, I turn "pay back" over to You—You decide about punishment. I decide to obey Jesus, and ask You to bless the one who has hurt me. Protect me Father. Heal me on the inside. Replace the pain with joy. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

A prayer for the ability to forgive: *Father, I am unable to forgive. I have been hurt too much. But, because of Jesus and what He means to me, I choose to allow You to teach me how to forgive. Father, help me. Heal me. Transform me on the inside to become the kind of person Jesus is—a person who forgives. I can't do this in my own strength Father. I wait upon You. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

