

FORGIVENESS

Seven elements of a theological doctrinal biblical defense for forgiveness.

1. It begins in the Decalogue.

You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. Mat 5:21

2. Whoever has offended you has offended God greater.

David... "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,"
Psalm 51:4

3. We will not enjoy forgiveness from God if we don't forgive others.

"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matt. 6:14-15

4. We will not enjoy the love of the brethren if we don't forgive.

"When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place." Matthew 18:31

5. If we won't forgive and rather seek revenge, we have usurped the authority of God.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rom 12:14

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Rom 12:19

6. The absence of forgiveness makes you unfit for worship.

"So, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Matt 5:23-24

7. Our injuries and offenses against us are our trials and temptations.

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Mat 5:44-45

What happens when we don't forgive?

- **It will imprison us in our past.**
- **Unforgiveness produces bitterness.**
- **Unforgiveness gives Satan an open door.**

"In your anger do not sin, do not let the sun go down while you're still angry and do not give the devil a foothold." Ephesians 4:26 -27

"Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive... so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs." 2 Cor. 2:10-11

- **Unforgiveness hinders your fellowship with God.**