

Forgiving
What You'll
NEVER
Forget

Dr. David
Stoop

I

Apology Not Accepted

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How have you typically defined “forgiveness”?
2. What lessons did you learn in your family, while growing up, about forgiveness?
3. What things have you considered “unforgivable”?
4. What is the most difficult thing you have ever had to forgive?

2

Myths and Truths about Forgiveness

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. For which of the 10 true/false statements were your answers different from those in this chapter?
2. With which of the chapter's answers do you still disagree? Why?
3. What new insights have you gained about forgiveness as a result of reading this chapter?
4. If forgiveness is not dependent on the perpetrator's repenting, how does that free us to forgive?

3

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Why do you think we so often want to combine forgiveness and reconciliation?
2. What are some of the reasons why the forgiven servant in Matthew 18 couldn't internalize the reality of his own forgiveness so that he could forgive the debt of his friend?
3. What might have been some of the reasons why it would have been so hard for John to forgive the man who had lied about him?
4. If the work of forgiveness is completed, and the present work of the church is to proclaim the good news of that forgiveness, how does that change how we seek to evangelize others?

4

A Radical Forgiveness

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How would you have responded to the SS man and his request for forgiveness?
2. Why do you think the world cannot understand unconditional forgiveness?
3. What is the hardest thing for you to accept about the idea of being an unconditional forgiver?

5

Choosing to Forgive

False Paths We Can Take

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What events have you denied as being hurtful in your life?
2. Are you caught in a pattern of self-blame, or self-loathing?
3. Is there someone whom you need to forgive, but instead, you are trying to understand why that person did what he or she did?
4. Do you feel bitter toward someone? If so, keep that person in mind as you read the next chapter.

6

The Path of Forgiveness

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What are some of the reasons that you have resisted the Path of Forgiveness in the past?
2. In your experience, what has been the hardest part of grieving?
3. Make a list of some of the people you have forgiven over the years. Who was the hardest one to forgive? Why?

7

Forgiving Ourselves

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what ways have you struggled with forgiving yourself?
2. What has made it hard for you to forgive yourself?
3. When you were able to forgive yourself, what made it possible?

8

A Step Beyond Forgiveness

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Why do you think God wants us to “loose” someone by praying for God to forgive them?
2. What are some of the situations in your experience where this “step beyond” could apply?
3. If you believe that God is directing you to pray that God will forgive someone who has hurt you, what are some of the emotions you feel?

9

The Benefits of Forgiveness

Notes

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2. Joyce Hollyday, "Hearts of Stone," *Sojourners Magazine* (March–April 1998).
3. Quoted in David Augsburg, *The Freedom of Forgiveness* (Chicago: Moody, 1970, 1988), p. 15.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 46.
5. *Webster's College Dictionary*, s.v. "forgiveness."

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1. "An Unnatural Act," *Christianity Today* (April 8, 1991), p. 36.

Chapter 4 A Radical Forgiveness

1. Becky Burkert, *Holland Sentinel*, May 16, 1999, sec. E, p. 1.
2. Simon Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower* (New York: Schocken, 1998), p. 42.
3. *Ibid.*, pp. 53–54.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*, p. 98.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 220.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 121.
8. *When Forgiveness Seems Impossible* (Grand Rapids: RBC Ministries, 1994).

Notes

9. Ibid.

10. Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower*, p. 211.

Chapter 5 Choosing to Forgive: False Paths We Can Take

1. Virgil Elizondo, "I Forgive but I Do Not Forget," in Casiano Floristan and Christian Duquoc, *Forgiveness* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1986).

Chapter 7 Forgiving Ourselves

1. P. A. Mauger et al., "The Measurement of Forgiveness: Preliminary Research," *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* 11 (1992): pp. 170–80.

Chapter 8 A Step Beyond Forgiveness

1. David Augsburg, *The Freedom of Forgiveness* (Chicago: Moody, 1970, 1988), pp. 107–8.

2. William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, vol. 2 (Edinburgh: The Saint Andrew Press, 1957), p. 160.

Chapter 9 The Benefits of Forgiveness

1. Redford Williams and Virginia Williams, *Anger Kills* (New York: Random House, 1993).

2. Jordana Lewis and Jerry Adler, "Forgive and Let Live," *Newsweek* (September 27, 2004), p. 52.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. Michael E. McCullough, Steven J. Sandage, and Everett L. Worthington, Jr., *To Forgive Is Human* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997), p. 192.

6. Ibid., p. 201.

7. David Augsburg, *The Freedom of Forgiveness* (Chicago: Moody, 1970, 1988), p. 147.

Chapter 10 Questions Often Asked Concerning Forgiveness

1. Lewis Smedes, *Forgive and Forget* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1984), p. 124.