Lessons on Forgiveness

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
Kentucky State University
March 23, 2026

1. God's Forgiveness Toward Us

- **Ephesians 4:32**
  "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

- **1 John 1:9**
  "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

- **Psalm 103:12**
  "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

2. Commands to Forgive Others (Forgiveness as a Requirement)

- **Matthew 6:14–15**
  "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you…"

- **Luke 6:37**
  "Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

- **Colossians 3:13**
  "Bear with each other and forgive one another… Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

3. Radical / Extraordinary Forgiveness (Forgiveness Without Limits)

- **Matthew 18:21–22**
  "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

- **Luke 17:3–4**
  "…If they sin against you seven times in a day… you must forgive them."

4. Jesus' Example of Forgiveness (Forgiveness Even in Suffering)

- **Luke 23:34**
  "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

- **1 Peter 2:23**
  "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate…"

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5. Forgiveness and Love (Forgiveness Flows from Love)

- **1 Corinthians 13:5**
  "Love… keeps no record of wrongs."

- **Proverbs 17:9**
  "Whoever would foster love covers over an offense…"

6. Forgiveness Brings Freedom and Healing (Spiritual and Emotional Release)

- **Mark 11:25**
  "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them…"

- **James 5:16**
  "…Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

Key Takeaways

- **We forgive because God first forgave us**
- **Forgiveness is not optional—it is commanded**
- **Forgiveness is unlimited—not conditional**
- **Forgiveness reflects Christ's character**

Short Memory Verses

- **Colossians 3:13** – *"Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*
- **Luke 6:37** – *"Forgive, and you will be forgiven."*
- **Ephesians 4:32** – *"Be kind… forgiving each other."*