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## Encouragement for the heart

### Just that little thing?

The reason I lovingly but bluntly write this note is because I love you and do not want the enemy to lie to you, steal from you, or for you to lie to yourself any more. When relationships are not working correctly or as they had after the week in intensive counsel there may be a very simple solution. When the Word of God is applied/obeyed it brings with it life, peace and limitless power. A seemingly small thing can cause a lot of pain, problems, and even seem as though your situation has returned to the way things were before the advice. Bitterness/unforgiveness is one of those things we may think is small, but there are major misconceptions believed by many. I have heard many false beliefs on this subject of forgiveness. If we look at Colossians 3:13 Strong's 5483 Greek charizomai or forgive is defined as (a) I show favor to, (b) I pardon, forgive, (c) I show kindness.

### Some of the false beliefs many believe are:

False belief 1. Forgiveness is a long slow process! IS IT? Did Jesus fully pay the debt that you owed or is he making installments over a period of time and bring up his suffering for your sin many times a week for months? I submit to you that forgiveness was and is a decisive cancelation of a debt! Meaning to send away, or let go of, yield up, to expire, to let off your hook! (Greek 863 aphemi)!

False belief 2. It is okay to bring up the past with my lips or in my thinking against the one who hurt me? IS IT? Will Jesus bring up your past sin against you again and again once he has forgiven you? God puts your sin as far as the east from the west when forgives you. (Psalm 103:12). You must forgive as Christ forgave you.

False belief 3. I must see change or repentance in the one who hurt me before I decide to forgive. Your bitterness is killing you but you're expecting the other person to die from that poison or receive punishment. Most times the emotional debt they owe you cannot be repaid or they don't even know how they have hurt you. Forgiveness is cancelling the debt just like Jesus cancelled the debt for you. Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequence of another persons sin! Look at Romans 5:8

False belief 4. No one will ever know about my secret sin. REALLY? What about Psalm 66:18, Hebrews 4:12-13?

False belief 5. I'm not God, I can't forgive like He does! YOU CAN'T?

Please follow me in Colossians 3

v12. NLT Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

The above verse is just before verse 13 which sets the standard for Forbearance and Forgiveness in the same way as God forgave us!

v13. NLT Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

v13. ESV Be tolerant of one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also should forgive.

v13. KJV Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Strong's 430 Greek anecho for forbear. I endure, bear with, have patience with, suffer, admit, persist.

Strong's 5483 Greek charizomai for forgive. (a) I show favor to, (b) I pardon, forgive, (c) I show kindness.

**Matthew Henry commentary** on the above verse 13; Many have the Word, but it dwells in them poorly; it has no power over them. The soul prospers, when we are full of the Scriptures and of the grace of Christ.

Matthew 6:12 states in the Lord's prayer we are asking God to forgive us in the same way we forgive others.

Un-forgiveness/bitterness seems deadly as in Matthew 6:15 which states "the Father will not forgive us if we don't forgive others". Is unforgiveness by Abba is death? Forgiveness is very important to God!!

The unforgiving servant is called wicked in Matthew 18:32 and thrown in the tormenters prison until the debt is paid in full. God forgave each of us a larger debt than anyone could owe us, we are commanded to release those who owe us just as He did (read Matt 18:21-35)!

The answer is to examine, that seemingly little thing, that is causing the problem (bitterness, pride, rebellion, greed, hypocrisy and call it sin as God does and then repent permanently of it so the Prince of Peace has the control of your life not you or sin!

The major difference between King Saul and the Shepard King David in their lifetime was Saul's stubbornness and pride in his unwillingness to repent, compared to David's willingness to repent and turn from His sin! Both of them sinned or failed before God as we do. Unforgiveness is the act, thought, or attitude of holding **yourself** to a higher standard **or another person** to a higher standard in forgiveness than God held you to. All forgiveness is very individual, costly and must begin at the heart. Forgiveness is not just being polite in a situation!