

Love

And now I will show you the most excellent way.

**13** If I speak in the tongues<sup>4</sup> of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,<sup>5</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**<sup>8</sup>Love never fails.** But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, *forgiving one another*, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

~ *Ephesians 4:31-32*

A messenger soon arrived in Jerusalem to tell David, “All Israel has joined Absalom in a conspiracy against you!”

“Then we must flee at once, or it will be too late!” David urged his men. “Hurry! If we get out of the city before Absalom arrives, both we and the city of Jerusalem will be spared from disaster.”

“We are with you,” his advisers replied. “Do what you think is best.”

So the king and all his household set out at once. He left no one behind except ten of his concubines to look after the palace.

~ 2 Samuel 15:13-16

As King David came to Bahurim, a man came out of the village cursing them. It was Shimei son of Gera, from the same clan as Saul's family. He threw stones at the king and the king's officers and all the mighty warriors who surrounded him.

“Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel!” he shouted at David. “The Lord is paying you back for all the bloodshed in Saul's clan. You stole his throne, and now the Lord has given it to your son Absalom. At last you will taste some of your own medicine, for you are a murderer!”

*~ 2 Samuel 16:5-8*

Leave him alone and let him curse ... and perhaps the Lord will see that I am being wronged and will bless me because of these curses today.

*~ 2 Samuel 16:11-12*

And remember Shimei ... He cursed me with a terrible curse as I was fleeing to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan River, I swore by the Lord that I would not kill him. But that oath does not make him innocent. You are a wise man, and you will know how to arrange a bloody death for him.

*~ 1 Kings 2:8-9*

# Four Questions

## I. What is **FORGIVENESS**?

*Forgiveness is relinquishing the right to retaliate when you get hurt ... and seeking to restore the broken relationship, if there is one.*

# Four Questions

- I. What is **FORGIVENESS**?
- II. Why is forgiveness so **HARD**?

## *3 Reasons*

- 1. It goes against our **CARNAL NATURE**.
- 2. It requires trust in the **JUSTICE OF GOD**.

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that  
to the righteous anger of God.

*~ Romans 12:19*



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- I. What is **FORGIVENESS**?
- II. Why is forgiveness so **HARD**?

## *3 Reasons*

- 1. It goes against our **CARNAL NATURE**.
- 2. It requires trust in the **JUSTICE OF GOD**.
- 3. It has to be done **OVER AND OVER AGAIN**.

No, not seven times, but seventy times seven.

*~ Matthew 18:22*

# Four Questions

- I. What is **FORGIVENESS**?
- II. Why is forgiveness so **HARD**?
- III. Why is forgiveness so **IMPORTANT**?

For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

*~ Matthew 7:2*

# Four Questions

- I. What is **FORGIVENESS**?
- II. Why is forgiveness so **HARD**?
- III. Why is forgiveness so **IMPORTANT**?
- IV. What should be our **MOTIVATION** for forgiveness?

We are not godly. We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved? We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.

~ *Isaiah 64:5-6*

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