

FREEDOM!!!
“How to be Free in Christ” – pt 4
June 24, 2007

2 Cor. 2:10-11

“If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven--if there was anything to forgive--I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, [11] in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

Ephesians 4:31-32

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father,

I thank You for the riches of Your kindness, forbearance and patience toward me, knowing that Your kindness has led me to repentance. I confess that I have not shown that same kindness and patience toward those who have hurt or offended me. Instead, I have held on to my anger, bitterness and resentment toward them. Please bring to my mind all the people I need to forgive in order that I may now do so. In Jesus’ name, amen.

1. Forgiveness Is Not Merely Forgetting

2. Forgiveness Is a Choice, A Decision Of Your Will

Romans 12:19

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.”

3. Forgiveness Is Agreeing To Live With the Consequences Of Another’s Sin

2 Cor. 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Luke 23:34

“Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

4. Forgiveness Comes From Your Heart

5. Forgiveness Is Choosing Not To Hold Someone’s Sin Against Him or Her Anymore

6. Forgiveness Cannot Wait Until You Feel Like Forgiving

For every painful memory you have for each person on your list, pray aloud:

Lord,

**I choose to forgive _____ for
_____ which made me feel
_____.**

After you have forgiven each person for all the offenses that came to your mind, and after you have honestly expressed how you felt, conclude this step by praying aloud:

Lord,

I choose not to hold on to my resentment. I thank You for setting me free from the bondage of my bitterness. I relinquish my right to seek revenge and ask You to heal my damaged emotions. I now ask You to bless those who have hurt me. In Jesus’ name, amen.