



Daily Verse and Comment

Matthew 6:12

(12) And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15

(14) "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

New King James Version

[Jesus](#) compares our sins to debts. We have violated our obligation of being obedient to [God](#), and this exposes us to the penalty that results from that violation. To teach us the lesson of forgiveness, *God bases how He forgives us by the forgiveness we extend to others!*

Those who come before Him unwilling to forgive others cannot expect God to show them the [love](#) and mercy they desire. God *will not* show them the mercy and love they will not extend to others! If we forgive others when they injure us, our Father will forgive us.

How are we to conduct ourselves in forgiving others? We must forgive, even if the offender does not ask to be forgiven. We should treat the one who has injured or offended us with [kindness](#), not harboring any grudge or speaking of that individual condemningly. We should always be ready to do him good if the opportunity arises. This is a tall order!

Why act this way when it goes so strongly against human nature? First, it produces [peace](#). Second, it sets the example for the offending individual—and for everyone else—of what God considers right and proper.

Does forgiveness of a person fighting a recurring problem mean that we should place complete trust in him in the area of his problem? With many problems—poor money handling, [gossip](#), lying, stealing, and sexual sins, to name a few—we need to see a track record of overcoming before considering him trustworthy, but we can still be understanding, forgiving, and encouraging.

— John O. Reid

To learn more, see:

[Forgiveness](#)

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