

2. Forgiveness is not **minimizing** the seriousness of the offense.
3. Forgiveness is not resuming a relationship without **change**.
4. Forgiveness is not **forgetting** what happened.

Real Forgiveness is:

“Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others.” Hebrews 12:15 (Ph)

1. Remembering how much I’ve been **forgiven**.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

2. Relinquishing my right to get **even**.

“... Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for He has said that He will repay those who deserve it.” Romans 12:19 (LB)

3. Responding to evil with **good**.

“... do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

“... (love) keeps no record of wrongs.” 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

4. Repeating the process as long as **necessary**.

“... Peter came to Him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No!’ Jesus replied, ‘seventy times seven!’” Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

PEACE
“Fruit Of The Spirit”
Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. ...” Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

I. PEACE WITH GOD

Grace: **God giving me what I need, not what I deserve.**

A. Peace with God comes through Christ Jesus.

“The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17 (NCV)

“... many people received God’s gift of life by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:15 (NCV)

“Don’t treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if we could be saved by keeping the law, then there was no need for Christ to die.” Galatians 2:21

B. Peace with God is given as a gift.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NLT)

“... and all need to be made right with God by His grace, which is a free gift. ... through Jesus Christ.” Romans 3:24 (NCV)

C. You receive God’s peace by faith.

“For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

“... people receive God’s promise by having faith. This happens so the promise can be a free gift.” Romans 4:16 (NCV)

D. Peace with God is available to everyone.

“... the promise ... is not only for those who live under the law of Moses but for anyone who lives with faith like that of Abraham, ...”
Romans 4:16 (NCV)

II. PEACE WITH OURSELVES

“He (God) heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”
Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

“... let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”
Romans 12:2 (NLT)

A. I am **acceptable**.

“... Christ has accepted you ...” Romans 15:7

“Though my mother and father forsake me, the Lord will receive me.” Psalm 27:10 (NIV)—God says, “I accept you.” If God accepts me, and you don’t, that’s your problem.

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ...” Romans 8:1 (NIV)

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ...”
Ephesians 1:13 (NIV)

B. I am **valuable**.

“... you belong to God, ...” 1 John 4:4 (NLT)

“You were bought with a price; ...” 1 Corinthians 7:23 (NLT)—You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to Him.

C. I am **lovable**.

“The mountains and hills may crumble, but My love for you will never end; ...’ So says the Lord who loves you.” Isaiah 54:10 (GN)

There are two characteristics that make God’s love different from human love:

1. God’s love is **consistent**.
2. God’s love is **unconditional**.

“Through what Christ would do for us, God decided to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault we stand before Him covered with His love.” Ephesians 1:4

D. I am **capable**.

“I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me. I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency.”
Philippians 4:13

“Once you were less than nothing; now you are God’s own.”
1 Peter 2:10

“May the God of hope fill you with joy ... that by the power of the Holy Spirit, your whole life and outlook may be radiant with hope.”
Romans 15:13 (Ph)

III. PEACE WITH OTHERS

A. The **dividing wall** has been removed.

“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (that done in the body by the hands of men)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.”
Ephesians 2:11-16 (NIV)

B. The **forgiven—Forgive**

“... Give as freely as you have received!” Matthew 10:8 (NLT)

The truth about forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness is not **conditional**.