

A conceptual image showing a tree with green leaves and a brown trunk, with its roots growing out of an open, aged book. The background is a soft, light green gradient.

Bringing the Bible to Life

Biblical Counseling Workshops

Forgiveness

Track V.11

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Guilt
Repentance
Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not...

Defective Forgiveness	
Defining Forgiveness	
Vertical	Horizontal
Results of Forgiveness	

- 1. Forgetting** (forgetting is passive, a possible result of biblical forgiveness)
- 2. Accepting, minimizing or excusing** (forgiveness acknowledges and confronts sins)
- 3. Not a feeling** (it is an act of the will)
- 4. Primarily for the benefit of the forgiver** (this is man-centered thinking; a command to glorify God. Eph.4:29-5:2)

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Defective Forgiveness	
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5 . Easy (Lu.17:1-10)

6. Granted to oneself (this is never commanded, e.g. David, Jonah, the woman @ the well, the adulterous woman, Peter, Paul, Prodigal son, Israel)

7. Granted to God (forgiveness is for sin, God cannot sin, he is HOLY, totally separate from sin; Lev.11:44)

8. An option (Mt.18:21-35); Mk.11:25; Lu.17:3-10; Col.3:13;

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Excuses to Refuse Forgiveness

Defective Forgiveness	
Defining Forgiveness	
Vertical	Horizontal
Results of Forgiveness	

Another person's sins against you do not negate your responsibilities to obey God.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, (Luke 12:13-16 ESV)

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Failure to Forgive *Brings judgment*

Defective Forgiveness	
Defining Forgiveness	
Vertical	Horizontal
Results of Forgiveness	

³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (Matthew 18:32-35 ESV)

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Defining Forgiveness

Defective Forgiveness
Defining Forgiveness
Results of forgiveness

- 1. Is an act of the will (choice)**
- 2. Is two-faceted**
 - a. Vertical relationship (heart-attitude of meekness)**
 - b. Horizontal relationships (between humans)**
- 3. Begins with self-examination (Gal.6:1-2)**
- 4. Is a response to God's mercy (Eph.4:32; Mt. 18:21-35)**
- 5. Is modeled after God (Eph.5:1; Mt.18:21-35)**

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Heart-Attitude the Seed-bed of Forgiveness

Defective Forgiveness	
Defining Forgiveness	
Vertical	Horizontal
Results of forgiveness	



- 1. Relinquishes one's will to God (2 Sam.16:10)**
- 2. Reflects on one's own sins (1 Sam.14:5)**
- 3. Repents of one's own sinful responses (Ja. 1:20; Eph.4:26)**
- 4. Releases responsibility for judgment & revenge to God (Rom.12:19)**
- 5. Restores relationship with God (1 Sam.24:12)**
- 6. Readies for restoration (Jacob/Esau Gen.32)**
- 7. Reflects God's forgiveness (Stephen, Acts 7)**

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Horizontal Forgiveness

Defective Forgiveness	
Defining Forgiveness	
Vertical	Horizontal
Results of forgiveness	

1. **Surrender of the will** (Gen.45:5; Esther 4:14)
2. **Seeks reconciliation when offended** (Mk.11:25)
3. **Seeks reconciliation when offense is made**
(Mt.5:23)
4. **Seeks reconciliation for good of others** (2 Cor.2:5-11)
5. **Not offered until asked for** (Lu. 17:1-10)
6. **Forgiveness is unlimited** (Mt. 18:22 - 70 x 7)
7. **Reflects God's forgiveness** (Eph. 4:29-5:3)

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Forgiving “Like God” Going on Record

Defective Forgiveness	
Defining Forgiveness	
Veritcal	Horizontal
Documenting Forgiveness	

A legal contract promising: (Mt.5:23-24) “I will not...

- 1. “bring this up again with you” (Ps.103:12 “east from west”)**
- 2. “bring this up again with others” (no records of wrongs done...1 Cor.13:5; Ps.130:3-4)**
- 3. “bring this up again with myself”, and dwell on it (Jer.31:34 “remember no more”)**
- 4. “allow this to destroy our relationship” (1Jn.1:1:3-2:2)**

**Forgiveness is instant,
fulfilling requires a life-time**



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Blessing of Obedience

Walking in the Light (1 Jn. 1)

1. “... **complete joy.**” (vs. 4)
2. “... **fellowship with Him**” (vs. 6)
3. “... **fellowship with one another**” (vs. 7)
4. “**freed from guilt and shame**
“**purifies us from all sin.**” (vs. 7)
5. Assurance of salvation
“**you have eternal life.**” (1Jn.5:13)

Homework

- Summarize 2-3 key take-aways from tonight's session
- Make a list of people that you need to ***forgive from your heart and choose to do so, by God's grace***
- Make a list of people that you believe may "have ought against you" and go to them

Going Deeper

The Peacemaker, Ken Sande

*Choosing Forgiveness, Nancy Leigh
DeMoss*

From Forgiven to Forgiving, Jay Adams

*The Freedom and Power of
Forgiveness, John MacArthur*

A tree with green leaves and a brown trunk is shown with its roots growing out of an open book. The book is open, showing its pages, and is positioned at the bottom of the image. The tree is positioned in the center-left of the image.

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