

Forgiveness-

Q. what is forgiveness. Can you tell?

Means -Stop blaming or resenting someone.

God our Father did not want to blame or resent any of us that is why he sent his son Jesus Christ, our Lord and saviour who took all the blame on himself, resented his own life and died on the cross for us. That is God's forgiveness-complete in every way so that we do not need any other sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

Marriage-We live with another person in very close contact. No other relationship can be closer-this is it. A mother and child relationship is very close for a few years, but what really lasts longer is Husband and wife relationship and lasts till 'The end'

Even for God this is relationship is what he has given the most importance

[Gen2:24](#) leave and cleave become one flesh. There is no other. Do not allow any other interference.

It is in this divine relationship we have the best chance to practice forgiveness and Love.

Pastor story- he was preaching to school kids about forgiveness and he asked 'one person I am not able to forgive still because that person did not like the colour of my favourite shirt. Should I forgive that person?'

His daughter was studying in the same school and she stood up and said,' you must because that person is your wife!!'

As we plod along life, our true self is revealed more and more

1] Must forgive- No tit for tat

Do you remember the story of the repentant prostitute who bathed Jesus feet with her tears and dried them with her hair in [Luke 7:36-50](#), after she has exhibited such respect and love for Jesus he told a story **in vs. 41-43** 2 men who owed one 500 denarii and the other 50 denarii, The lender forgave both their debts since they could not pay. Then the Q. who will love the lender more?

Obviously he who is forgiven more will love more.

We have a generator downstairs it generates power. Same way the forgiveness generates Love. This principle applies to our love for God AS WELL AS IN MARRIAGE.

2] Must forgive repeated offences

1st time offender-1 year jail/2nd time offender-2 yrs jail./3rd time offender-3yrs jail and so on in court.

In Marriage we cannot do it, we have to forgive every time.

[Matthew 18:19-21](#) -77 times. Not keeping count-keep forgiving.

In a marriage there are repeated offences, small may be but still causes resentment of the person not folding the bed sheets after use/ not closing the toilet door after use/throwing things here and there little foxes may be/not sitting and using the western toilet but standing and using and spilling all around and not cleaning it.

For me personally character assassination is difficult to forgive and angry raised voice from wife .Talk normally ya! Is my usual comment.

As we plod along life, our true self is revealed, and that may not be acceptable to the other person who builds up resentment and reject the other person.

3] Must forgive- only current account not savings a/c

In the bank, savings a/c need some balance but current a/c need not. In marriage also forgiveness a/c need to be current a/c not savings a/c. What do I mean by that?

[Eph4:26-27](#)-Easier said than done. Do not let the sun go down-how go and hold it and not allow it to move or order it sun don't move. The idea here is clean the dirt same day. Do not carry it to another day.

At Dinner husband makes some remark, he does not even know he is hurting the wife/ go to bed wife is hurt she does not want to talk, doesn't allow him he is tired he knows if he starts asking her what is wrong it may be 1 am he is got a long day tomorrow so he rolls over and sleeps she is up all

night not able to forgive, he is snoring and that makes her more upset and resentful. Next day just carry on and go on with life-savings a/c.

The Bible commands us to forgive before the day ends so let us not be stubborn. FORGIVE DAILY.

Do not add up for weeks, months, years and then pour it all out. In 1949 you said this, you did this you looked at me in a funny way, remember!

One married man told another 'My wife is historical' you mean she is hysterical? No historical- she keeps track of all the mistakes of mine year by year.

All this is good. But we find forgiving difficult. Talking is easy but for me forgiving is so difficult, more so as you age.

Wife shares.....

So, what can enable us to forgive every time- A goal- **Oneness**- or unity . Understanding that is God's design for all our marriages.

In Marriage 2 persons are joined to have physical/Emotional/spiritual Oneness we are one!

Lack of forgiveness strains and interrupts all the 3.

Physical: you turn away from one another or reluctantly give into physical. Lack of forgiveness, there is some resentment.

Remember the door slamming/walking out/sleeping on the couch.

Not forgiving and avoiding talking to one another /to reconcile say sorry /asking for

forgiveness/making all efforts to LOVE again **affects emotional oneness**- Most marriages suffer this emotional disunity. We stop talking to one another.

Worst is, **spiritual oneness** suffers. Do not pray together do not read bible together or we may pray together daily but it is always' God, change the other person-not God change us both or change me-other person. May even have devotionals regularly, but wife may be singing and husband only mumbling and kids may be digging their nose or lying down. These are some ways we know

forgiveness is greatly missing among the spouse.

God sees it as very serious. [Matthew 5:23-24](#)-forget worshipping together if there is no forgiveness among you/[1 cor 11:27](#) Lord's supper-self examination.

What can help us get into the right mind set to forgive? If we understand our roles as husband and wife and the behaviour as given in the bible.

1 pet 3:1-6- Very difficult to practice. Wives- Same way **2:21-23****Christ** suffered/did not

retaliate/made no threats/entrusted him to the one who is just .submissive. See the purity and

reverence/ Beauty not outward/we save on oil/no gold/fine clothes/inner beauty/gentle quiet spiritunfading beauty. Holy women of the past [are they still around!]Sarah called Abraham-Master!!

Do not give way to fear-this is the key. Trust God/ HE is Just. What fear women give into? Women can answer that better.

Wife shares.....

Husbands, vs. 7 Same way be considerate/treat them with Respect as weaker partner-Cricket team how do we treat the weak ones in the team-no send them in last/ that is respect for them/if we

want to treat them bad we will send them 1st to bat and see them struggle.

And as heirs of the gracious gift of life-the weak one also rejoices when the team wins the

championship and still is part of the team. Does that help/here the bible says our wives are the weak

partner in the team, so how do we protect them/respect them. Do we stand up to Satan's bowling

1st or try to send them in 1st?

When we seek and extend forgiveness to one another-that helps in oneness. God our Father had

forgiven and extended his Grace to us let us also forgive and extend grace towards one another.

Trust God