



A. Forgiving is HONEST:

About what happened	About Ourselves
About the responsibility of the person who committed the wrong	
About their accountability	About future possibilities
About the price of any reunion	About the person who wounded us

In forgiveness, I:

--Rediscover the humanity of the Person who hurt me.

--Revise my thoughts toward the person I forgive.

--Surrender my right to get even. I give up on vengeance, but I don't give up on justice

--Forgiving is not about staying with people who are hurting us.

--Forgiveness is risky.

--"Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin. Forgiveness is costly. You pay the price of the evil you forgive.

--Forgiveness involves living with unfairness. When you have been wronged, it is always unfair. There are only two responses: vengeance/bitterness and forgiveness.

--Forgiveness is FOR YOU. Your need to forgive is **not** an issue between you and the offender; it is between you and God. (Trust and Safety are issues regarding the other person.)

"The person who hurt us should not be the person who decides whether or when we should recover from the pain he brought us." p. 91 (Jesus forgave on the cross as a man, not God. Father forgive them.)

B. A Decision and a Process

--Earlier definition said that Forgiveness is the heartfelt decision to release the person who hurt you from the obligation incurred when you were mistreated.

--Take time because you need to see if the situation is safe. "We are hard put to forgive someone who is still battering us." Pull back and estab. Safety if possible. But what if can't? Trust God to death? John Piper idea of how we complete the sufferings of Christ, even to showing our love all the way to death.

--But don't take too long. Else our rage settles into our whole experience. It becomes who I am. I become my bitterness. If I forgave I would not know who I am.

Forgiveness is not tolerating the wrong behavior, just dealing with the person.

We are not excusing the behavior; we are forgiving the person.

Intolerable behavior is forgiveable.

Forgiving the intolerable does not make it tolerable

Forgiving it does not mean we intend to put up with it.

C. What do others see in us? What is the power of forgiveness to impact others?