

“. . . bad company corrupts good character.” - 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.
- Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

“You are the light of the world . . . let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

- Matthew 5:14,16 (NIV)

Main Point: The _____ of God becomes _____ in the people of God.

Point #1: We _____ His compassionate love.

“Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.” - Exodus 34: 6-7a (NLT)

“Love of Christ is the strongest of all bonds.” - St. John Chrysostom

For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

- Romans 6:3-4a (NIV)

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

- Matthew 5:44-47 (NIV)

Point #2: We _____ God’s character when we _____ His costly forgiveness.

And forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.
- Matthew 6:12 (NLT)

Forgiveness is a spiritual _____ that requires the _____ of our will.

Three reasons why we must forgive:

1. We are _____ to forgive as we have been forgiven.
2. We forgive so Satan cannot get a _____.
3. We forgive because _____ is corrosive and will _____ us.

Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.
- Hebrews 12:15b (NLT)

“Our own relationship with God is tied to our relationships with other people. You can’t have a righteous relationship with God in isolation from your relationships with other people.”
- Neil Anderson

“Unforgiveness is always accompanied by suffering of some kind – it is a universal reality.”
- Bruce Wilkinson

Truths about forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness is not _____. Forgiveness is _____ differently

You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.
- Micah 7:19 (NIV)

2. Forgiving does not mean that the _____ doesn’t matter.
Forgiveness is handing it over, _____ the _____ to Jesus.

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.
- 1 Peter 2:23 (NIV)

3. Forgiveness does not _____ sin.
4. Forgiveness is not seeking _____.
5. Forgiveness is an _____ / _____ of your faith.