

Forgiveness Definitions

The act of excusing or pardoning another in spite of his slights, shortcomings, and errors. ~ Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

A willingness to abandon one's right to resentment, negative judgment and indifferent behavior toward one who unjustly hurt us, while fostering the undeserved qualities of compassion, generosity and even love toward him or her. ~ Robert Enright

The process of concluding resentment, indignation or anger as a result of a perceived offense, difference or mistake, or ceasing to demand punishment or restitution. ~ Wikipedia

To grant free pardon and to give up all claim on account of an offense or debt. ~ Oxford English Dictionary

People, upon rationally determining that they have been unfairly treated, forgive when they willfully abandon resentment and related responses (to which they have a right), and endeavor to respond to the wrongdoer based on the moral principle of beneficence [aka charity], which may include compassion, unconditional worth, generosity, and moral love (to which the wrongdoer, by nature of the hurtful act or acts, has no right). ~ Dean E. Barley

Forgiveness means deciding not to punish a perceived injustice, taking action on that decision, and experiencing the emotional relief that follows. ~ Mona Gustafson Affinito

The act of giving up resentment of or claim to requital for something or to cease to feel resentment against someone. ~ Merriam-Webster

Forgiveness Scriptures

If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him. Luke 17:3-4

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ~ Ephesians 4:32

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ~ Colossians 3:13-14

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. ~ Luke 11:4

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. ~ Matt 6:14-15

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ~ Matt 18:21-22

When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. ~ Mark 11:25

Parable of the Prodigal Son — Luke 15. The father in the story is a model of our Heavenly Father and His forgiveness of us, His wayward children.