

## **Be Forgiving, Both 16 of Yourself and Others**

When the Lord gave us the pattern prayer, He taught us to pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matt. 6:12). Then in verses 14 and 15 He said, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

It is impossible to be like Christ and not be forgiving. Keep in mind that we do not deserve His forgiveness, but He forgives us anyway. When someone asks forgiveness, immediately assure him that he is forgiven and mean it. This means that you’re never to bring it up again—never. For no reason under any circumstances should you ever mention it to the individual again. It is forgiven. I’m not saying you must forget it. That is not always possible. But you should never bring it up again.

To have an unforgiving spirit and harbor bitterness only hurts one’s self. Hatred is a poison that destroys the vessel in which it’s kept.

Then, too, learn to forgive yourself. Everybody makes mistakes. The problem is not failing, but failing to take advantage of the provision God has made for our failures. First John 1:9 promises, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Here is the Christian’s way to forgiveness and cleansing.

When we confess our sin to Christ, we may know that we’re forgiven and cleansed, because that is exactly what He promises in I John 1:9. Once God has forgiven you, then forgive yourself. Assure yourself that God not only forgave you but cleansed you, and the wrong no

longer exists; it is gone. So why keep punishing yourself for something that God has forgiven and forgotten?

Isaiah 43:25 says, “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” Don’t worry about things that God Himself has blotted out and forgotten about. Some people go through life miserable because they will not forgive themselves. So learn to be forgiving, not only of others but also of yourself.