

CHOOSING FORGIVENESS

Freedom for a Fresh Start- Part 1

January 14, 2018

Matthew 18:21-35

*“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)*

What Forgiveness is not...

- **It is not conditional.**
- **It is not resuming a relationship without changes.**
- **It is not forgetting what happened.**

FORGIVENESS IS...

1. Giving up my right to get even.

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.” Romans 12:19 (NIV)

“Having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.” Colossians 2:14 (NIV)

2. Choosing forgiveness as long as necessary.

“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.’” Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)