

# Please Forgive Me

**Children learn most of their attitudes at home.**

Little Mary breaks her brother's favourite toy and he screams in small boy style, "I'll never forgive you!"

Next time, when Mary is the victim, her favourite doll comes to grief because of her brother's carelessness, how does she react? Exactly as her brother did.

More than likely at least one of their parents had set a bad example for them to follow, in this lack of forgiveness.

David, an 8-year-old boy, is just like his dad, he never says he is sorry for anything.

It is predictable that David, unless he changes, is heading for a life of alienation from others, he will be paying a high price for being just like his dad in this respect.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** [New King James] *"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*

**Deliberately choosing not to forgive, as a way of life, is rank disobedience to God's way of life.**

Are we practicing this in our daily lives?

If not, such disobedience will exact its toll on us and generally also into the next generation.

**Be positive –**

**Our minds are constantly absorbed with thoughts.**

**God's Word, the Christian Bible, makes that clear and tells us what the end result will be.**

**Proverbs 23:7** [New King James] *"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he ..."*

**Note present tense, we are what we are thinking at any given moment.**

Are our thoughts positive or negative, forgiving or unforgiving, right now?

If we dwell on negative things for long periods of time we will constantly act negatively.

The person who will not forgive, but nurtures thoughts of how someone has mistreated them, whether true or not, cannot give their mind and heart to the productive thought and activity God commands.

Well we all need to control our thoughts.

**Philippians 4:8** [New King James] *"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things."*

When we fill our minds with pure thoughts then there is **no** room for detrimental, unproductive thoughts.

**Hatred and bitterness are poisonous venom to the human heart and mind.**

**They finally cost us more than we can afford to pay.**

God is able to deal with a person who does not graciously respond when someone says to them, *“Please forgive me.”*

Meanwhile, God blesses the person who is willing to humble themselves and ask for forgiveness.

**Luke 14:11** [New King James] *“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

**This humble forgiveness is an integral part of every good marriage. All of us can easily wrong others, even those we love most intimately.**

**True Christians know how to forgive, they want to take the first step to repairing a relationship.**

**Isaiah 43:25** [New King James] *“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”*

Even though He has the power of complete and instant recall, God completely forgets our sins on our repentance and seeking to be forgiven.

God completely forgives and forgets our sins, the Hebrew word translated *“transgressions”* is *“pâsha”* meaning to break away from authority, to offend.

What an example of the kind of forgiveness we should be practicing in our marriages.

**We need to test ourselves –**

Check our forgive-and-forget quotient in our relationships.

Can I sincerely say *‘I’m sorry’*?

Am I too quick to judge?

Am I easily hurt or offended?

When offended, do I try to understand and quickly forgive?

**Can my partner see Jesus Christ’s example of perfect forgiveness and forgetting in me?**

**Do I make it easy for my partner to forgive me?**

If I find my score is low, I work on it with God’s help, asking God and my partner to forgive me.

**Remember, the person who genuinely forgives and forgets has grasped the deeper meaning of Godly love.**

**Psalms 86:5** [NIV] *“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”*

**As with all references to Godly love in both the Old and New Testaments, it is based on self-sacrifice.**

The Hebrew word used for love in the Old Testament is *“âhab”* meaning a deep affection for a person.

The Greek word used in New Testament for Godly love is *“agapé”* which is more expressive in the meaning of God’s love.

A spontaneous love, irrespective of the “*rights*” or response of the recipient, [**Romans 5:8**] a sacrificial love, [**John 3:16-17**] that puts aside personal desires, [**Philippians 2:5-8**] to show affection to the object of that love.

Practice this love by saying to your partner, in-laws, brother, sister, colleague, friend and God, “*Please forgive me.*”