

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. NET Bible

POD - This life must be lived for Another, through Another, and by Another.

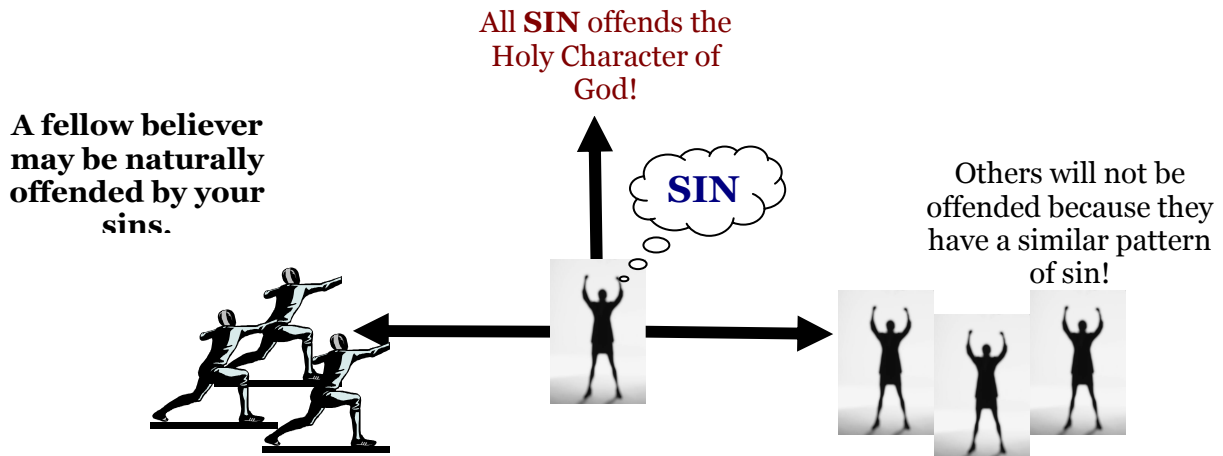
POD - This life must be lived for Another [*Jesus Christ, because of what He has done for you*], through Another [*Jesus Christ who strengthens you*] by Another [*God the Holy Spirit*].

POD - It is through Christ that the believer can meet the high standards of grace in God's precious Word.

POD - The kingdom subject's forgiveness is contingent upon forgiving others, though the Church Age Believer's forgiveness is not because he resides in the Age of Grace [*Church Age*].

How is forgiveness hashed out in application for the Church Age Believer?

A fellow believer may say or do something to you that offends or embarrasses you - wrongs you.

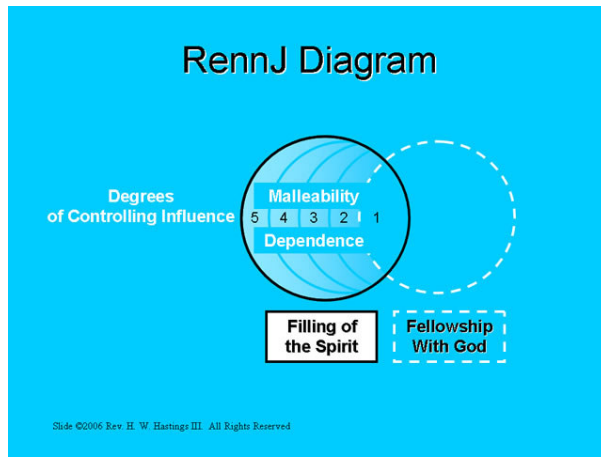


You may harbor bitterness in your soul because of the sin of another!

In bitterness, you may also sin against them!

How, then, is forgiveness hashed out in application for the Church Age Believer?

1. **Rebound** - you must confess the sin of bitterness or revenge or whatever! (1 John 1:9).
2. **Dependence** - immediately you must depend upon the Spirit of God to forgive because you cannot.



Dependence is a step of faith.

Why do you rebound and take that step of faith?

3. **Pray** - You take your issue to the throne room of grace (**1 Peter 5:6-8**).

Prayer is actually a conversation you can have with your Heavenly Father!

You might pray for the person who has offended you!

4. Turn your issues of forgiveness over to God for His **Course of Action** -
 - a) Grant them a period of grace to judge their own sin (**1 John 1:9** cf. **1 Corinthians 11:31; Amos 3:3**).
 - b) Facilitate rebound through divine discipline (**1 Corinthians 11:30-32**).
 - c) Scourge them to break their will (**Hebrews 12:6b**).

POD - The rebound robot avoids the Lord's discipline; [*because he judges his sin during the period of grace*]; however, scourging may be in order to break the rebound robot's will [*independence*].

After God has dealt with them as a son - -

5. Should they approach you and say, "**I was wrong**" – what should you do?
 - a) You forgive in grace and fellowship may be restored between you.
 - b) Remember that they do not earn or deserve their forgiveness as you do not earn or deserve your forgiveness!

"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?"

"Up to seventy times seven"

- > Most believers do not have the humility to admit they were wrong.
- > **James 5:16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. . . .

Forgiveness -

1. Forgiveness does not mean that you condone the offending behavior.
2. Forgiveness equates to pardoning the debt of the behavior.
3. Pardoning the debt equates to letting go of personal resentment and excusing the offense without penalizing the individual.
4. The grace standard is to forgive others as God has forgiven you (**Ephesians 4:32**).

Ephesians 4:32 Be **kind** to one another, **tender-hearted**, **forgiving** each other, just as God in Christ (ἐν Χριστῷ - *the means of forgiveness*) also has forgiven you.

- γίνομαι + χρηστός - “To be pleasant, kind, or benevolent”
- εὐσπλαγχνος – “To be compassionate”

Compassion = mercy *plus* grace

- χαρίζομαι – “To forgive or pardon”

Why do people have such a hard time letting go of personal resentment?

1. They fail to see that their resentment and bitterness is sin, which equates to failing to rebound as necessary.
 - ⇒ People who fail to rebound are focused on the offender instead of the Exemplar – Jesus Christ.
 - ⇒ The log is not in their eye. It is in the offender’s eye.
2. They fail to walk in dependence upon the Spirit who enables them to forgive.

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

The flesh produces the desire to get even – REVENGE.

What is revenge?

Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

The unforgiving heart is not a life lived for Another, through Another, and by Another.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.