

## Forgiveness Assignment ATS

SF505: PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL/THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY  
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Forgiveness as we have always heard is always for you and not the other person and over the years this has been an easy concept to accept. Learning the benefits of forgiveness for oneself is a major blessing; however, I have learned that it's so much more involved when we extend forgiveness to anyone who has offended us. Just as the lectures shared on this week shared, we are to forgive with the same measure that Jesus has forgiven us. The challenge that I have found and still find today is how do we forgive a person who repeatedly offends us. Scripture tells us that Matthew 18:21-22. *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses."* This is a crystal-clear concept however I have found myself asking God but how many times shall I forgive someone who has trespassed against me? Again, scripture states Seventy-seven times. That's how many times the Bible tells us we should forgive someone. Matthew 18: 21-22 21 *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"* 22 *Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."*

This has been something that I have had to learn how to allow God to minister to my heart and the hurt that I have experienced from anyone who has offended me. There are two things that I have done in the past when someone has hurt me, and the first and most easiest thing for me to do is to remove myself from the person and the situation so that they won't have the opportunity to hurt me again. Then if removing myself isn't an option, I have found that with time God has graced me to have a forgiving heart and mindset towards that person. I have read a few books on forgiveness and have found them all to offer great insight on the actual art of forgiveness. *"When You've Been Wronged Moving from Bitterness to Forgiveness"* I

immediately joined this groups book study when I saw the title of the book desperately desiring to forgive my offender. Surprisingly enough I didn't receive what I thought that I would have encountered centered around forgiveness; but what I did glean was healing for my situation and my soul. Having to forgive someone repeatedly for offensives has cross the lines of abuse in my personal opinion. Especially when dealing with a narcissistic indivial who will never apologize but instead, they will find a way to place the blame on you. Lutzer's shares in his book When You've Been Wrong was a section about reconciliation ; this blessed me. Lutzer's shared that there are different forms of reconciliation, and we should acknowledge them and allow room for the Holy Spirit to offer us guidance where we should be when it relates to reconciliation after someone has offended us.

The first is full reconciliation and he stated that this can occur when trust, honesty, and respect are all present. This happened when forgiveness restores the belief that two, or class of people, have been brought together in faith, each concerned about the welfare if the other.<sup>1</sup> P.154 The next is partial reconciliation and this happens when there is a recognition of wrongdoing; forgiveness has been both requested and received, but trust and respect have been so seriously eroded that there cannot be any real in-depth friendship. P.156 Finally he shares that in some cases there is no reconciliation you cannot reconcile with a spear thrower or a destroyer. This is where my truth comes to full surface, I had to realize that although I have allowed forgiveness to flow sincerely from my heart towards my offender that there will be times that there is no reconciliation. I have learned the benefits of given up my right to right even if I am right. I have also learned to erase an entire paragraph or just pause, take a deep breath, whisper a silent prayer to Jesus and say OK.

## References

When You've Been Wronged Moving from Bitterness To Forgiveness Lutzer, Erwin W Moody Publishers

<sup>i</sup> When You've Been Wronged Moving from Bitterness to Forgiveness Lutzer, Erwin W