

#SERIOUSLY—Forgiveness by Robby Bradford

WHY DON'T WE FORGIVE?

√ We have a wrong understanding of forgiveness.

- It's not minimizing the seriousness of the offense.
- It's not reconciliation.
- It's not forgetting what happened.

√ We don't think it's fair.

(Matthew 18:21-35) 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**. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants... **This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother** from your heart."

√ We don't think we can do it.

(Philippians 4:13) I can do **everything through him** who gives me strength.

WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WHO HURT YOU...

1. Pray for them.

(Matthew 5:43-44) "You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But **I tell you: Love** your enemies and **pray** for those who persecute you."

2. Bless them.

(Luke 6:27-28) "But I tell you who hear me: **Love** your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you, **bless** those who curse you, **pray** for those who mistreat you."

(Romans 12:14) **Bless** those who persecute you; bless and **do not curse**.

3. Do good to them.

(Romans 12:17-21) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. **If** it is possible, as far as it depends on you, **live at peace** with **everyone**. 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. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." **Do not be overcome by evil**, but **overcome evil with good**.

THE FIRST STEP

(Ephesians 4:31-32) **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**.

BOTTOM LINE: The forgiven forgive.