

The Great Mandate

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. -

Colossians 3:13

The Bible's central theme is God seeking and saving those in dire need of forgiveness. Jesus willingly died on the cross for you and me, even though we often don't feel a need to be forgiven. And even though you and I all too often continue to exhibit a rebellious nature. Through faith in Jesus, God forgives us in spite of ourselves.

But there's more. God's forgiveness is a creative force. It spills out to you when you receive it and affects every one of your human relationships. You see, forgiveness is both a gift and a command of God. It's God's gift to us that allows us to have everlasting life; at the same time, God tells us He won't extend that forgiveness to us if we're not willing to forgive others.

Remember . . . we don't deserve God's forgiveness, and neither should we expect others to deserve ours.

Questions:

- Is forgiveness another way of saying God's love ?
- Is forgiveness the central concept of God's love? Or just a small part?
- What are the other parts of God's love beyond forgiveness ?