

Why is it hard to forgive?

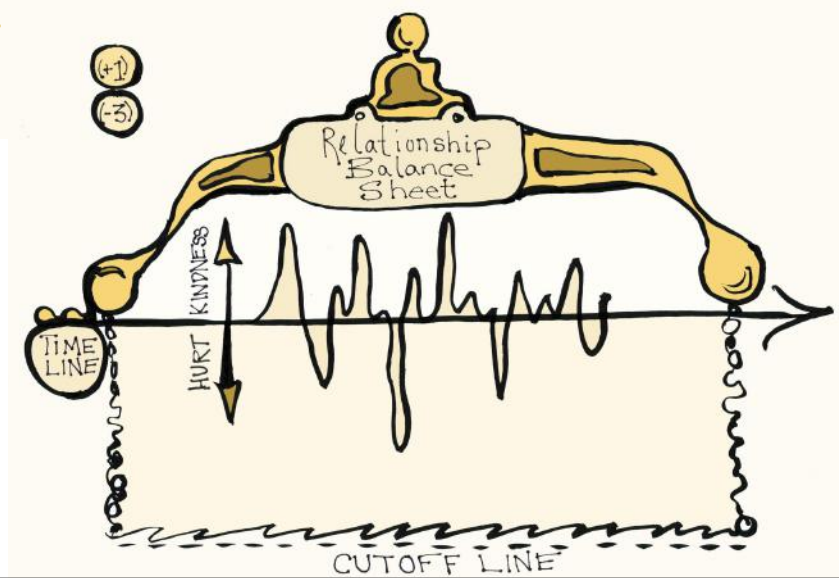
Why is it hard to forgive **again?**

and again and again and again?

1

Forgiven to Forgive Matthew 18:21-35

ref.ly/Mt18;niv



2

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.**"

3

Matthew 18:23-34

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him **ten thousand bags of gold** was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt."

4

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go

5

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

6

³¹ When the **other servants** saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You **wicked** servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had **mercy** on your **fellow servant** just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers **to be tortured,** until he should pay back all he owed.

7

Matthew 18:35

³⁵ "This is how **my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."**

8

The Main Point

**Those who are forgiven by God
must forgive others without restriction**

9

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
Matthew 6:12

For if you forgive other people when they sin
against you, your heavenly Father will also
forgive you. But **if you do not forgive others their
sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**
Matthew 6:14-15

10

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because **judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful**. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

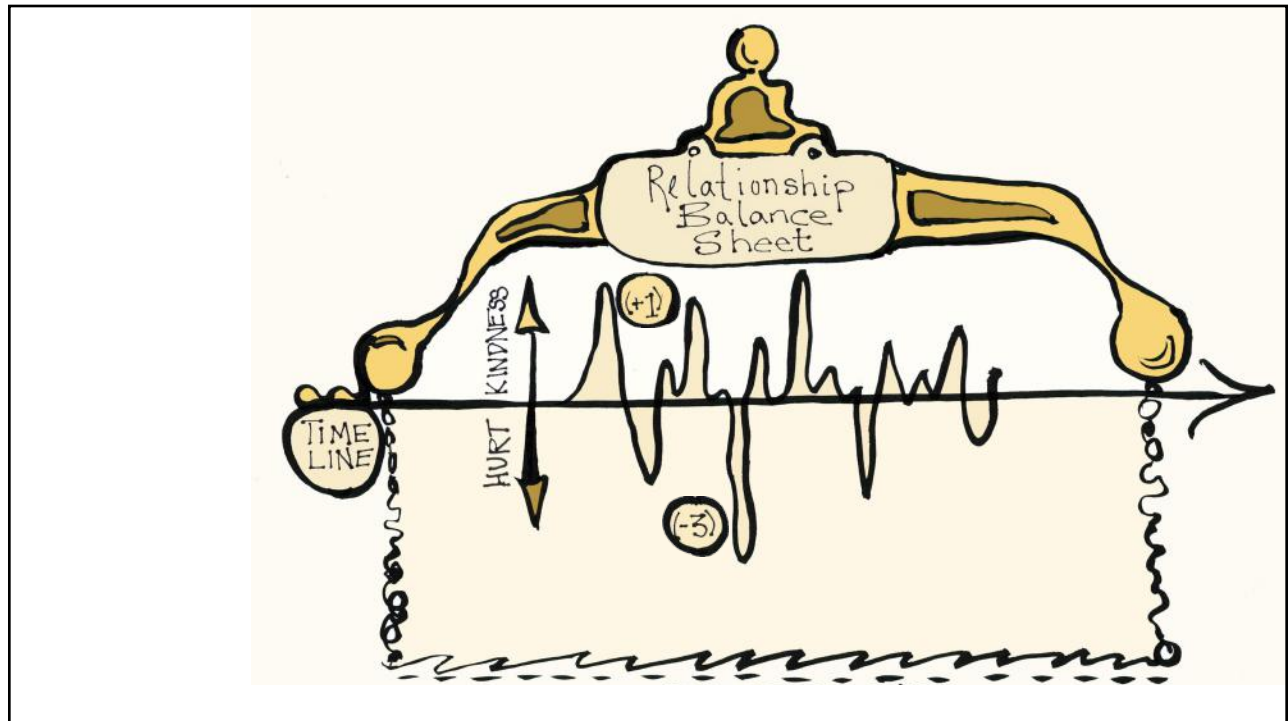
James 2:12-13

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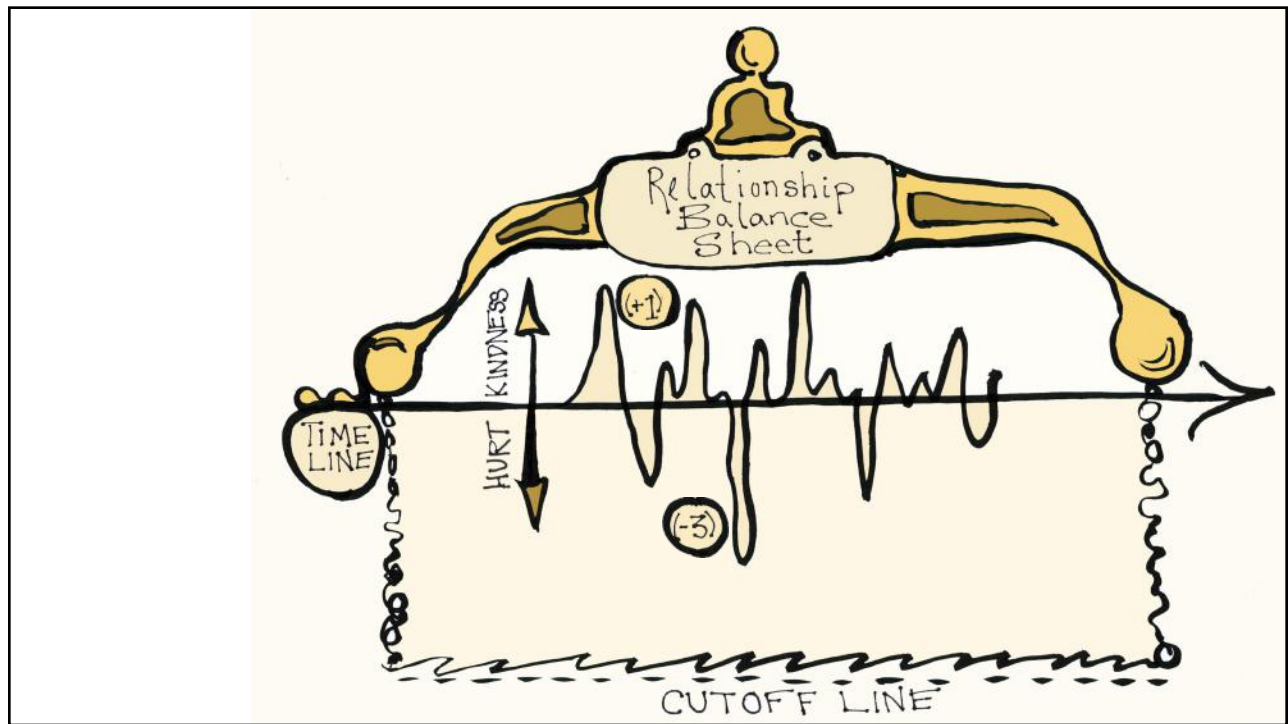
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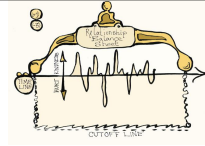
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13



14



Jesus said: not 7, but 77
Uncountable

77 times

15



77 times

"God made him who had no
sin **to be sin for us**, so that in
him **we might become the
righteousness of God.**"

2 Corinthians 5:21

Our debt = unfathomable

16

The Main Point

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17

Application

Recognize the overwhelming grace of God

- Our unpayable debt was cancelled!
- We are treated as completely righteous!
- “Those who are forgiven little love little”

Luke 7:47

18

Application

Forgive—from the heart

- Spirit of God empowering

19

Application

Love = truly seek the best for others

- No desire for retribution ("Father, forgive them")
- Prevent further harm
- Bring transformation
- Bring restoration

20

Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart.

Rebuke your neighbor frankly

so you will not share in their guilt.

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge

against anyone among your people,

but **love your neighbor as yourself.**

I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:17-18

Love includes...

- Direct rebuke
- True forgiveness

21

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"LORD, how many times shall I forgive
my brother or sister who sins against me?
Up to seven times?"*

*Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven
times, but seventy-seven times.*

Matthew 18:21-22

22