



The Freedom And Power Of Forgiveness

John F. MacArthur Jr.

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Seventy times seven. Forgive one another. Turn the other cheek. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

We may toss these phrases around in our minds like old clichés, or dispense them like aspirin to others who are struggling with legitimate grievances toward another person. But forgiveness isn't a casual concept. God takes it seriously. So seriously that He has not given us an option in the matter. Obedience to His Word is essential.

Why? Mostly for our own sake. There can be no intimacy with God and no love for others in a heart where bitterness and unforgiveness dwell. But where there is forgiveness, there is freedom. Spiritual power. Emotional healing. And sweet fellowship.

Where there is forgiveness, there is a heart that God has touched--and a life that God can bless.

Forgiveness. Almost no concept is more foundational to Christianity--or more important to your personal and spiritual well-being. Yet in an age where it has become fashionable to "forgive yourself" rather than to forgive others, can our modern ways of reckoning guilt, blame, mercy, and justice be reconciled with Jesus' teaching?

Pastor John MacArthur thoroughly examines God's Word to answer the questions you're asking about the possibility, the power, the necessity, the freedom . . . the meaning of forgiveness--for your relationships, and for your soul.

The Freedom And Power Of Forgiveness Details

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Steve Johnson says

Not unlike his preaching, John MacArthur is pretty exhaustive in explaining what the Bible says about forgiveness. While the forgiveness we can receive from God through Christ is foundational, it would have been nice if more of the book had been dedicated to interpersonal issues related to seeking and granting forgiveness (i.e. between two or more people, within a congregation, etc.) For these matters, I'd suggest reading the chapter on forgiveness in 'Relationships: A Mess Worth Making' by Timothy Lane & Paul David Tripp. That said, I still consider it a helpful and good (not great) book. While I would have liked MacArthur to dedicate more of this book to applying the truths of Scripture on the topic of forgiveness, he does that well in the last chapter ("Answering the Hard Questions About Forgiveness"). Also, an appendix titled "How Are We to Understand the Atonement" does a great job identifying erroneous views of the atonement and those who have held them- Christ's death as a ransom paid to Satan (ex: Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin) and Christ's death as a demonstration of God's justice but not an actual payment for sinners (ex: Charles Finney, Youth With a Mission).

Adam says

I think this is my favorite John MacArthur book. He deals very well with a variety of issues relating to forgiveness and what the Scriptures. In his usual biblical manner, he goes thru the Scriptures and addresses many topics relating to church discipline, restoration, reconciliation, to forgive if one doesn't repent, and so on. Though some examples would have helped to flesh out the principles more, this was pretty helpful in understanding forgiveness and it's many facets.

Serendipity says

Literally one of the best books I have read this year. This book was originally recommended to me by a deacon at my home church, and I found it again after reading an excerpted article on Grace To You. John MacArthur talks about forgiveness in both doctrine and practice, for both the one who forgives and the one asking to be forgiven. The book gave me a Biblical framework in which to think about sin and forgiveness, and how to better apply to my own life. Highly recommended!!

Lincoln Forlong says

As we have all come to expect of John MacArthur, this is another exceptionally clear, biblically obvious work that covers the subject of Forgiveness to an exceptional degree.

John MacArthur writes with many years of personal experiences and counselling of others that affords him the realism required for applying the many biblical passages that deal with the subject at hand.

More to the point, the author does what is possibly the best ever job of answering real life situations that require working through the various levels of forgiveness. From simple irritations to prolonged, complex,

and agonising relational hurts, MacArthur masterfully applies God's Word in understandable terminology that, if applied, will bear much good fruit in the life of the reader. This is a must read for all Christians, especially those in ministry.

Len Staley says

This is probably one of the most important books to help us in our christian walk.

Jocelyn says

excellent book on the aspect of forgiveness and being forgiven. The author succeeds in demonstrating the theology of forgiveness as found in the Bible for the purpose of a successful and fruitful Christian life.

Matthew Richey says

I think if I wanted to quickly sum up the problem with this book (and the author in general), I would have you turn to the bibliographical notes at the end. In a book of (so-called) exegesis and theology, his notes are only a page and a half and are almost exclusively people he quotes so that he show you how they are wrong. He quotes himself twice, quotes Matthew Henry twice and Dietrich Bonhoeffer once (but not before disavowing him). All other footnotes are just examples of people he believes are either stupid or intentionally twisting Scripture. He never thoughtfully engages with another perspective. He seems to operate under the assumption that there are three categories of people who interpret Scripture: 1) People who are naive and unthoughtful; 2) People who intentionally twist Scripture under the influence of Satan; and 3) himself.

Brock says

3.1B - Spiritual Growth

Randy says

Excellent book that presents solid, biblical support for positions on human-to-human forgiveness. The approach is what I term as "judicial," that is, the focus is on forgiving out of obedience. This approach excels in the focus of obedience and gratitude but is weak on reconciliation.

Todd Miller says

lessons I learned in this book are:

1. As Christians we are called and commanded to forgive offenses against us.

2. There is a need in the church for discipline as well as forgiveness when the lost brother or sister repents.
3. Don't be confrontational on every little thing that offends you. Determine in your mind to forgive the little things and only confront on the big things. Here's a nice quote from the book on forgiving the little things.

"In effect, the person who chooses to forgive resolves not to remember the offense, refuses to hold a grudge, relinquishes any claim on recompense, and resists the temptation to brood or retaliate. The offended party simply bears the insult. The offense is set aside, lovingly covered for Christ's sake. For petty and unintentional offenses, this is the proper and loving way to forgive-unilaterally, without confrontation and without stirring any strife."

John MacArthur. Forgiveness (p. 122). Kindle Edition.

4. How utterly forgiving God is towards his people.
 5. We can not be Christian and unforgiving at the same time, the two do not exist.
 6. Even though there is forgiveness, the consequences of some offenses still have to be dealt with.
 7. True forgiveness has three parts: Reception, Restoration, Restitution. When you forgive you Receive the person as if they had not offended. When you forgive you restore the person to the previous position. When you forgive a person that person should make restitution to the offended party where applicable.
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