



## Renewing our Relationships

Matthew 6:12-15

**Listen!** What is the single most needed thing for the renewal of relationships?

- Trust?
- Time?
- Communication?
- Commitment?
- Sacrifice?
- \_\_\_\_\_?

**Why are we talking about this?** Many of our relationships are distant, rusty, angry, cold, formal, barely at the level of common human courtesy, hurt, or wilting—in a word, in bitter need of forgiveness and a fresh start.

**Major Idea:** A genuine fresh start in many relationships...requires that we forgive in exactly the way we want to be forgiven. Matthew 6:12-15.

- Teach us to pray:
- We sin against God and therefore need to be forgiven:
- We sin against others and therefore need to be forgiven:
- Others sin against us and therefore need to be forgiven:
- God forgives perfectly:

- Forgive in just exactly the same way that you want to be forgiven:
  - Your choice.
  - Partially?
  - Perfectly?

**For Instance:** The woman in the rusty pickup.

You may be holding a grudge because someone:

- Shunned you.
- Tortured you.
- Beat you.
- Robbed you.
- Raped you.
- Cheated you.
- Ignored you.
- Belittled you.
- Lied to you.
- Lied about you.
- Betrayed you.
- Upstaged you.
- Scorned you.
- Ridiculed you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ you. (You name it.)

**So What?** Tear off a corner of your bulletin...

***“Forgive others in just exactly the same way you want God to forgive you—then go and tell them with absolute grace.”***

# Walking Papers

“Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week—the Christian life is a daily thing.”

**The Big Idea:** A genuine fresh start in many relationships...requires that we forgive in exactly the way we want to be forgiven. Matthew 6:12-15.

Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today.** Take a blank page of paper and make a list of your sins against God. Confess them to God. Ask for His help in overcoming them in the future. Find a shredder. Shred the page. Walk away forgiven.
- **Monday.** Take a blank page of paper and make a list of your sins against others. Confess them to God. Ask for His help in overcoming them in the future. Find a shredder. Shred the page. Walk away forgiven.
- **Tuesday.** Ask God if you need to make restitution to anyone for what you have done to them. Follow through. Be courageous.
- **Wednesday.** Reflect on what people did to Jesus from the time of His arrest until the time of His death. List the things. Think about how Jesus responded. Think about what Jesus did. Think about what Jesus said. (You could look in Luke 22:39-23:56)
- **Thursday.** Reflect on what people did to Paul from the time he became a follower of Jesus until his death. List the things. Think about how Paul responded. Think about what Paul did. Think about what Paul said. (You could look in 2 Corinthians 11:16-33)
- **Friday.** Take a blank page of paper and make a list of the sins of others against you. (List everything you can think of.) Express your forgiveness toward these people to God. Ask for His help in overcoming grudges in the future. Find a shredder. Shred the page. Walk away free.
- **Saturday.** Ask God if you need to call, write, or speak to anyone about the forgiveness you have given. Follow through. Be gracious. Do not be condemning.

***“Forgive others in just exactly the same way you want God to forgive you—then go and tell them with absolute grace.”***