

Prayer Diagram XIV Forgiving other's sins

Matthew 5:38-48

We've been looking at steps to resolving anger:

- It begins with confession to God that it's a sin, then defining the offense, grieving the loss, trying to understand your offender, searching for pearls in the offense.
- Today we are going to be considering our final two steps to dissolving anger.
- Let me remind you, you do have to forgive. Forgiveness is point in time and decision we make before God and it is daily walk and decision to persist in forgiveness. These steps help our walk.

- STEP # 6 = putting your feelings into writing** – in the form of a letter to the person who offended you.
- God has put His feelings, emotions, expectations concerning our sin into writing hasn't He?
- Stuff to include: clarify what happened (this what you and this is how it made me feel, this is what I feel was taken from me).
- Talk about your feelings (this hurt, deeply angry, resentful toward you, etc.)
- Express your desire to forgive and obey God and move on.
- Express how you would like them to respond.

This is not for them particularly, but for you, that is, this isn't to mail to them necessarily.

- You may very well get a bad reaction from your offender and worsen situation.
- They may find it too painful to deal with their shortcomings and lash out

Proverbs 9:7

Understand: people are caught in a sin cycle (devil has a foothold in their life).

- You are breaking that cycle by resolving your anger **not** by correcting them.
- They may never say "sorry" or reconcile with you or ever acknowledge that they ever even did anything.

Step #7 is to reach out to your offender

- "But you just said don't reach out to them or they may hurt us again." No, I said trying to get them to fess up, repent and reconcile may not be the best idea.
- But reaching out to them in love is exactly what God does to us.
- Matthew 5:44-45**
- We are not looking for an apology or even reconciliation, but: **Romans 12:20-21**
- How do you know when you've forgiven? When you can think of them, feel sorry for them and reach out to them in love.

--Forgiveness is what you're going to do, that's what we're going to do.

--Choose forgiveness, put the devil to flight, **James 4:7**

"Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."