

FORGIVENESS

charizomai: to grant as a favor, i.e. gratuitously, in kindness, pardon or rescue:--deliver, (frankly) forgive, (freely) give, grant.

When one is forgiven his past sins are no longer taken into account. The fact that they were done cannot be erased, however, they will no longer be "held against him."

Psa.86:5 For Thou, Lord, art good, and **ready to forgive**, And abundant in loving-kindness to all who call upon Thee.
2 Pe.3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all **to come to repentance**.

The Lord is ready and willing to forgive whenever one comes to repentance.

CONCERNING ERRING BRETHREN

These were not "forgiven" unless or until they repented. What they did was held against them until they repented is evident.

Diotrephes (3.b.10) must be made to give account

Deceivers (teachers) (2.b.11) must be avoided

Cephas (Gal.2:11) had to be called into account

Corinthians (2Co.13:1-2) must not spare those who sin

Ananas and Sapphira (Act.5:1ff) made to pay price of sin

Immoral member (1Co.5:1ff) had to be "delivered to Satan"

The one who repented was to be forgiven. 2Co.2:4-8

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(Mat 18:21-22) Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said^ to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

(Luke 17:3-4) "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. "And if he sins against you seven times a day, **and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,'** forgive him."

As many times as asked for, give!

Ready! Waiting for the change of heart, repentance.

## THINK ABOUT THIS:

- Recent high school shootings:

Headline in newspaper: Students and families need to find forgiveness. (What is this all about?)

Pop psychology: "forgive" murders and others who commit heinous crimes.

***Is there a difference between "ready and willing to forgive" and forgiving unconditionally?***

- Mat.6:14 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. If we forgive others **who do not repent**, then will the heavenly Father forgive us if **we do not repent**? If so, then all we have to do is forgive everyone and forget about repenting. (I don't think so!)

- Mat. 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, **as** we also have forgiven our debtors."

"As" means in like manner.

If we forgive others before they repent, then God will forgive us in like manner (i.e., before we repent)?

- **Scenario:** A member divorces his wife and remarries another member who divorced her mate, neither one having Scriptural grounds to put mate away and remarry.  
If we are to forgive unconditionally before repentance, then nothing can be held against them, and they can be members in good standing. If not, why not?