

## Forgiveness The doorway to God's presence

### 1 Corinthians 8:12 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup>When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

### Corinthians 11:27

<sup>27</sup>Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

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## We forgive because we are forgiven.

Matthew 18:23-----

### Acts 7:58

<sup>60</sup>Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

[Mark 11:25](#) [18:21](#) [Luke 11:4](#) [Ephesians 4:32](#) [Colossians 3:13](#)

Matthew [14-15](#) [Mark 11:25-26](#) [Luke 6:37-38](#)

These verses say clearly that God wants you to forgive other people. Why? Because God has forgiven you. He wants you to do the same for others. This doesn't mean you have to let people hurt you. But when they do, forgive them and don't take revenge.

- a- God's forgiveness allows us to enter his presence  
Luke 15:11-32
- b- By forgiving others we can experience God's presence  
Galatians 5:22  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

## **Forgiven First, Then Repent**

In *The Silence of Dean Maitland*, the author tells how the dean fell into sin, and then committed one sin after another to cover up his first sin.

Worst of all, he permitted an innocent man to be punished and imprisoned in his stead. All kinds of temporal adversities broke over him. He lost his wife and children. His home became a wilderness. Yet he would not repent. He said, "I cannot, I will not, I dare not, I must not repent."

But, one day, the man, who had spent a great part of his life in prison for the other's crime, wrote him a letter telling him of his forgiveness.

It was that letter that broke his heart and brought him to repentance.

"God called to me," he said, "through many years, by many judgments. But I repented when I was forgiven."

### **James 4:17 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

### **Philippians 4:5**

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

### **Luke 17:4,**

<sup>4</sup> Even if he wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, forgive him."