

#### **Last Challenge**

- Discipline the mind to interrupt reaction and focus on Christ.
- Meditate on the holiness of God.
- Humble self, examine self, repent of sin.
- Avoid focusing on the faults of others.
- Commit to pray for change in your heart.







# — G4 — GO AND BE RECONCILED

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.



#### **FORGIVENESS**

A UNIQUELY CHRISTIAN POSSIBILITY

#### **DEFINITION** (Hebrew)

salah — "forgive, pardon, release, be indulgent
towards"

nasa — "lift, raise, carry, bear, take away; forgive"

#### **DEFINITION** (Greek)

aphiēmi — "forgive, cancel, remit, let go"

aphesis — "forgive; the act of freeing from an obligation, guilt, or punishment; pardon"

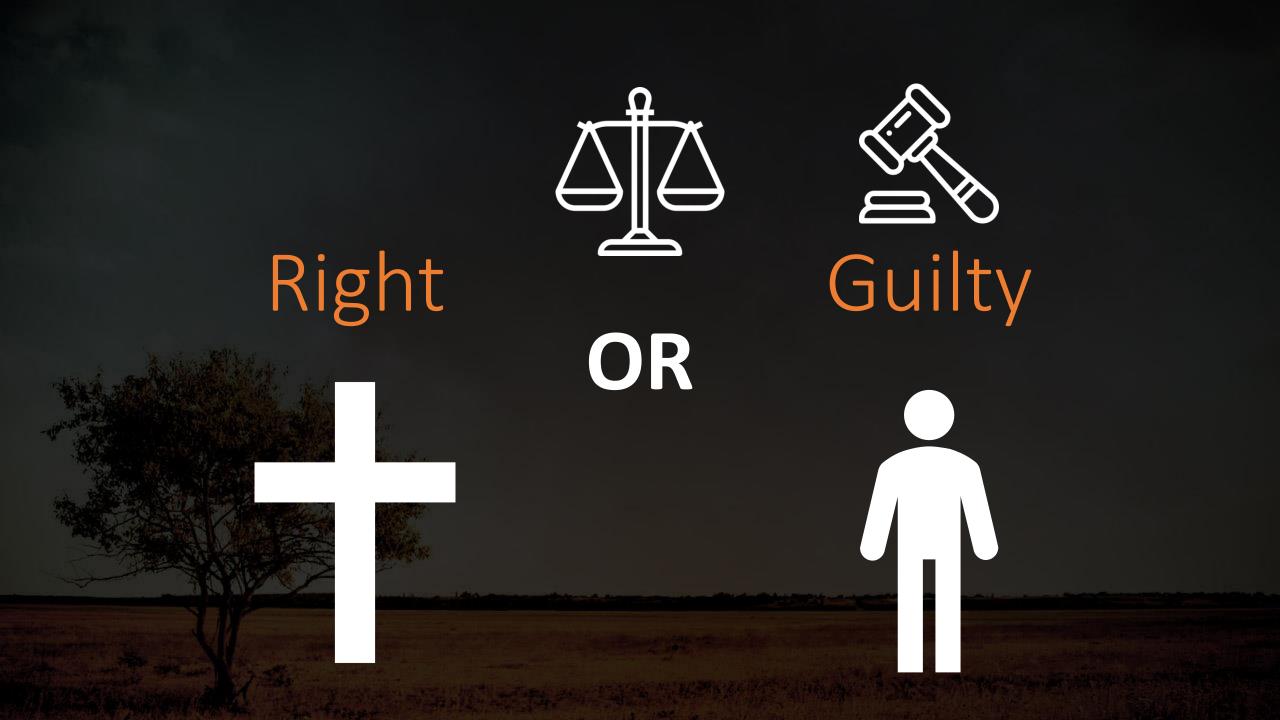
**charizomai** — "forgive, forgive freely, pardon"

#### **DEFINITION** (English)

To forgive is to *for + give* ("refuse + give"), which is to refuse to give what is due or deserved.

The Oxford English Dictionary tells us that the *for* prefix denotes the notion of refusing, denying, or renouncing (i.e. forgo, forbid, forsake).

It is by tender mercy, on the account of Christ's merits, satisfaction, and intercession, to forgive the guilt of sin, as it maketh us the due subjects of punishment, and to forgive the punishment of sin, as due by that guilt and the law of God, so as not to inflict it on us.





#### **GUARDING THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT**

- 1. Forgiveness is ultimately from God alone
- 2. Forgiveness is a gift of grace
- 3. Forgiveness is costly
- 4. Forgiveness is an act of love
- 5. Forgiveness is relational
- 6. Forgiveness is conditioned on repentance



#### WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

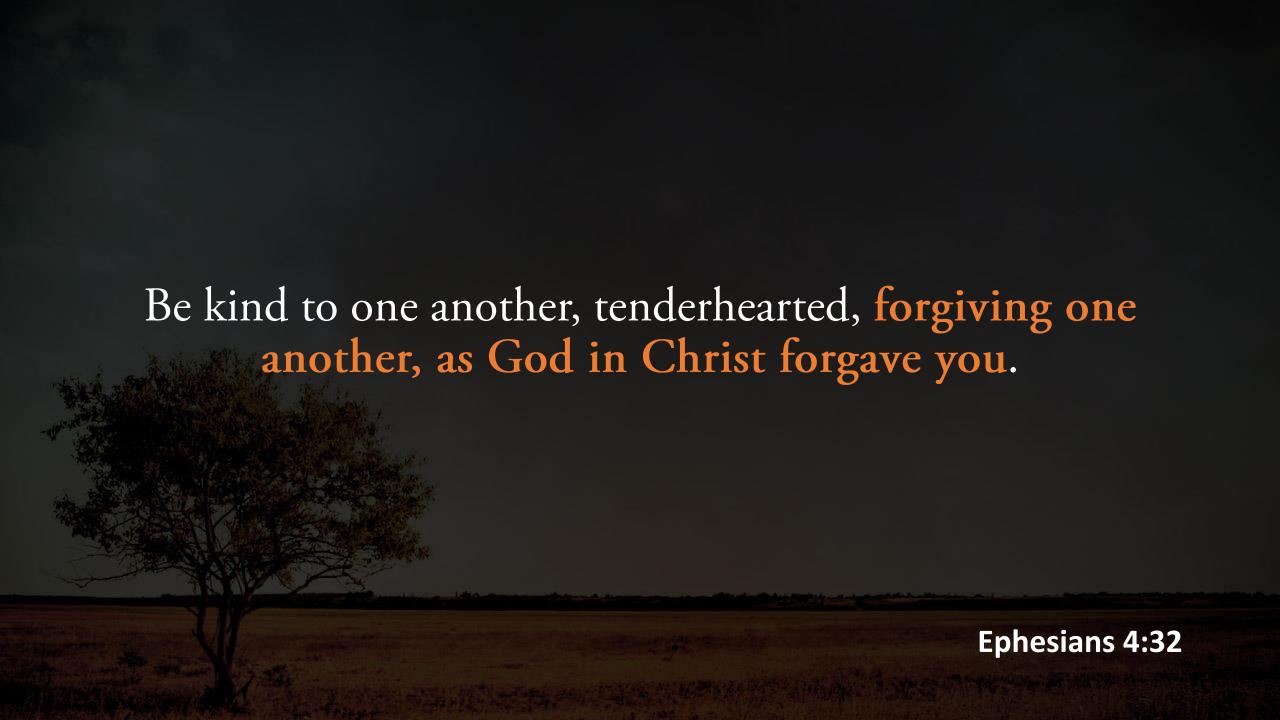
- 1. Not a Feeling
- 2. Not Forgetting
- 3. Not Excusing
- 4. Not a Removing of All Consequences
- 5. Not a Reinstating of Full Trust
- 6. Not Partial



#### WHAT FORGIVENESS IS

- 1. Forgiveness is a **Promise** 
  - a. I won't dwell on it
  - b. I won't talk about it
  - c. I won't use it against you
  - d. I won't let it stand between us
- 2. Forgiveness is a **Covering**

# FROM FORGIVEN TO FORGIVING

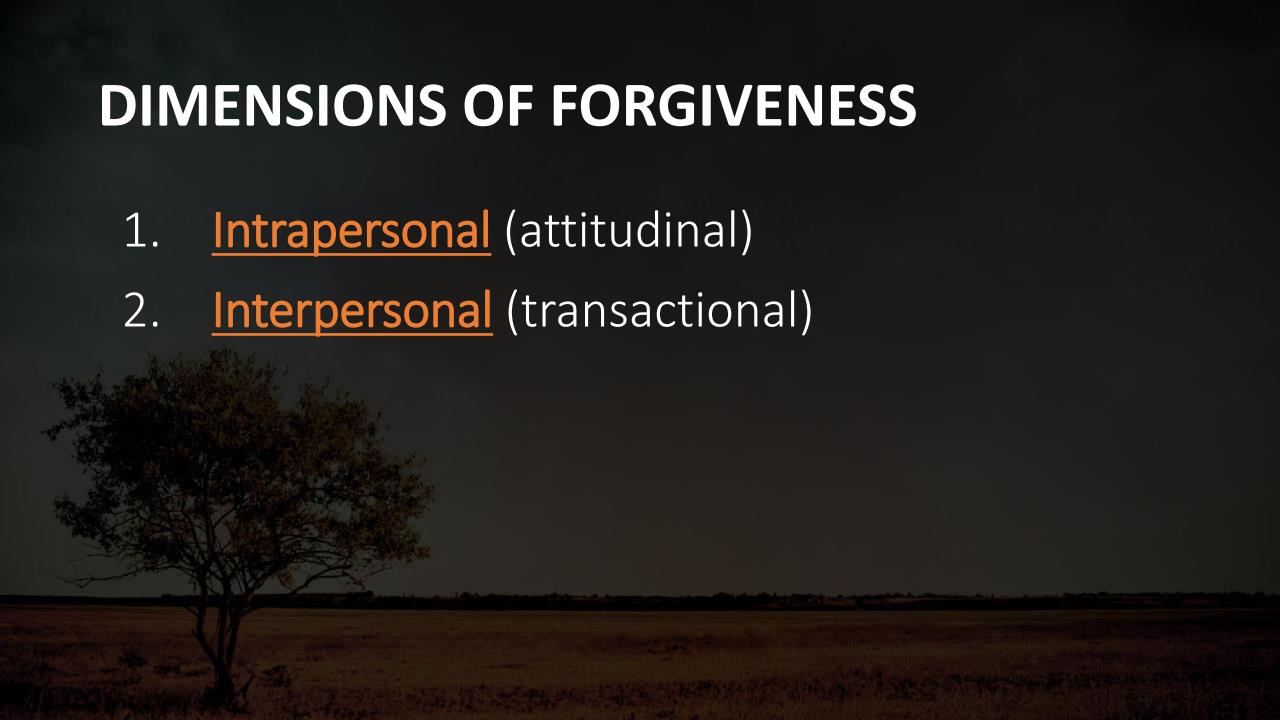


Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.



When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both.

Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."





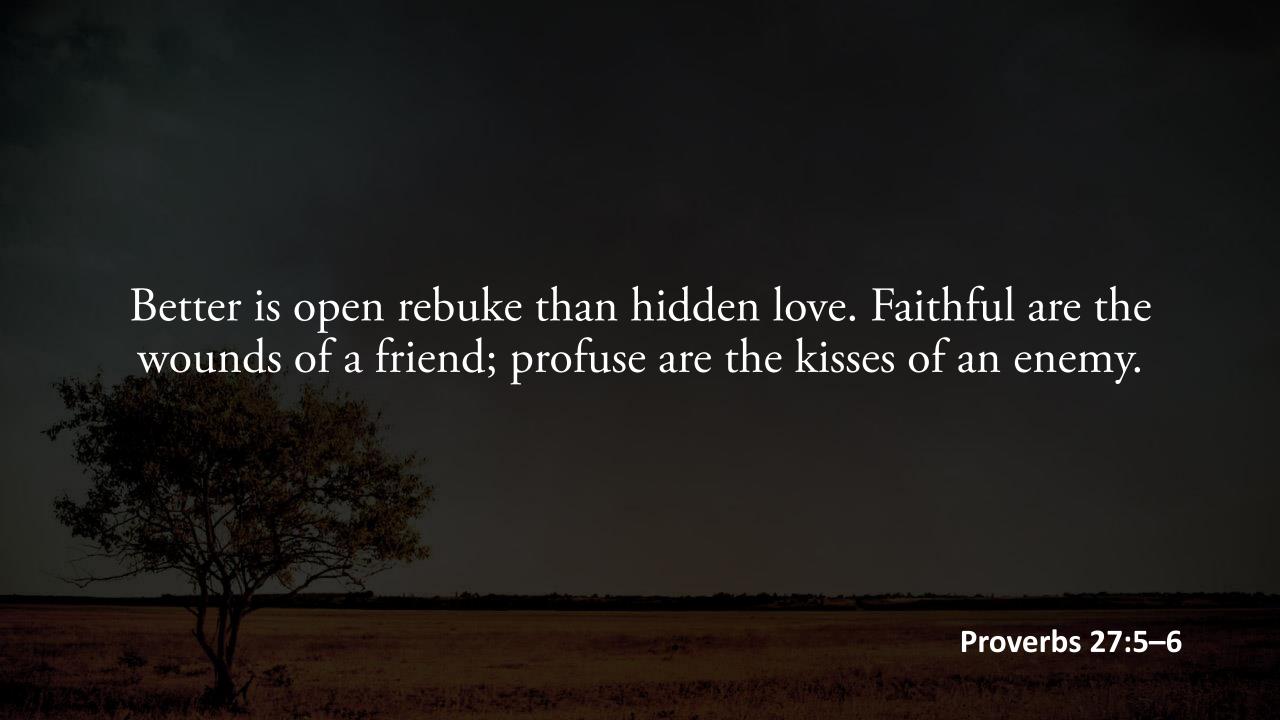
#### BIBLICAL RECONCILIATION

Walking through the practical steps

Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him.

```
//"Seven times" suggests "as many as"
while (your_brother_sins) {
   rebuke_him();
   if (he_repents) {
      forgive_him();
```

If (your brother sins) then rebuke him If (he repents) then forgive him Repeat



#### Offender

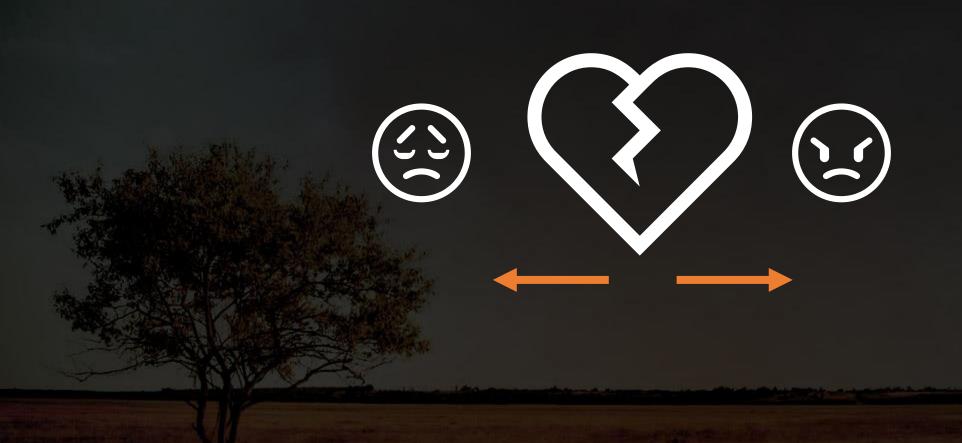
#### Offender

- 1. Repent
- 2. Seek Forgiveness
- 3. Forbear

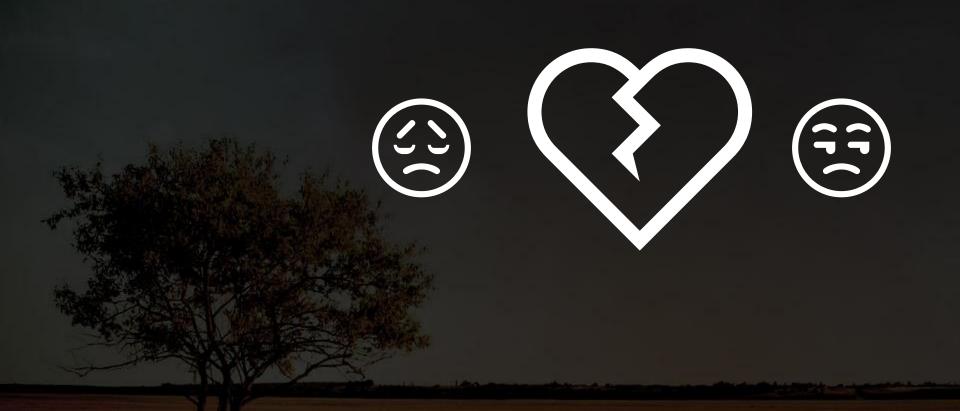
#### Offended

- 1. Rebuke
- 2. Forgive
- 3. Forbear

# Principle #1 SIN SEPARATES

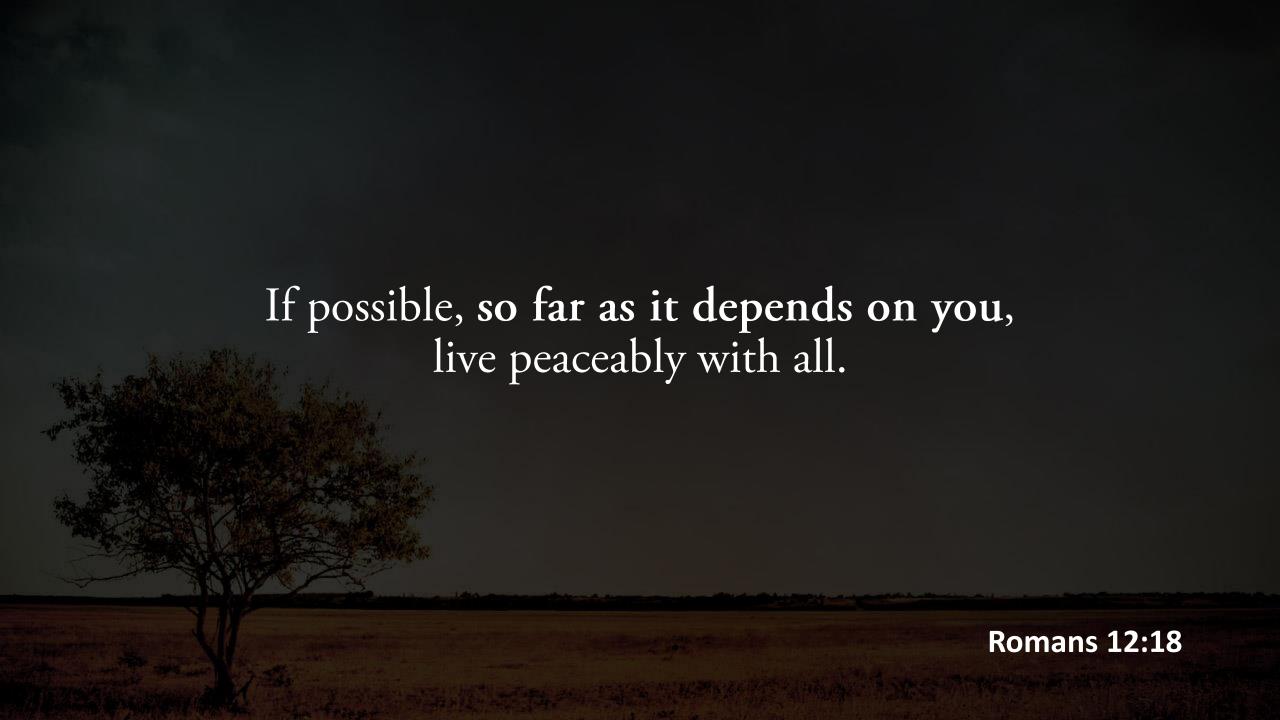


## Principle #2 RECONCILIATION REQUIRES FORGIVENESS

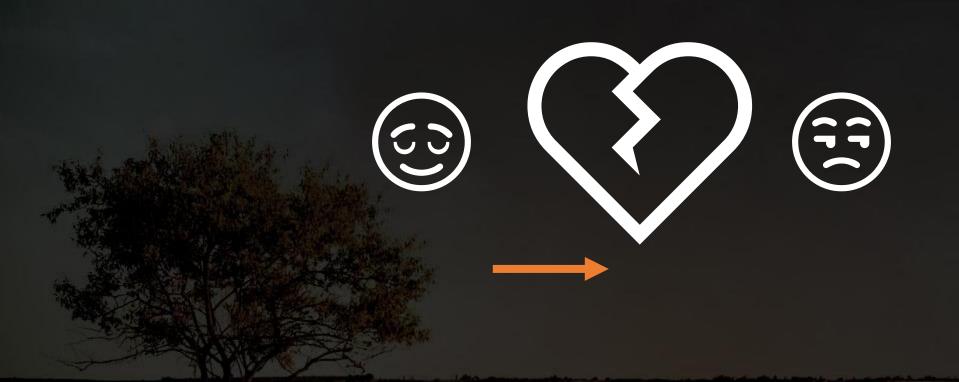


## Principle #3 FORGIVENESS TAKES TWO





# Principle #4 FORBEAR IN THE MEANTIME



#### **Christ-Centered Responses**

- G1 Glorify God How can I glorify God in this situation?
- G2 Get the Log Out

  How can I own my part of this conflict?
- G3 Gently Restore

  How can I help others own their part?
- G4 Go and Be Reconciled How can I forgive?

#### Challenge

- Discipline the mind to interrupt reaction and focus on Christ.
- Humble self, examine self, repent of your sin.
- Focus on Christ's love and forgiveness towards you and cultivate love and forgiveness for others.
- Commit to pray for change in your heart.