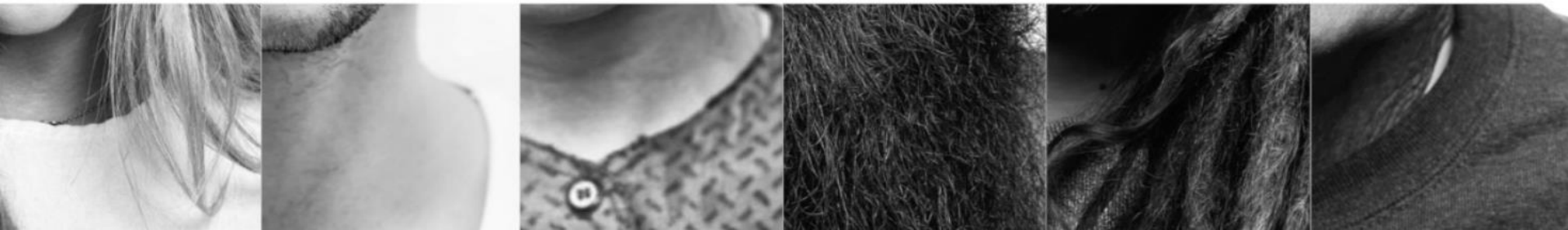


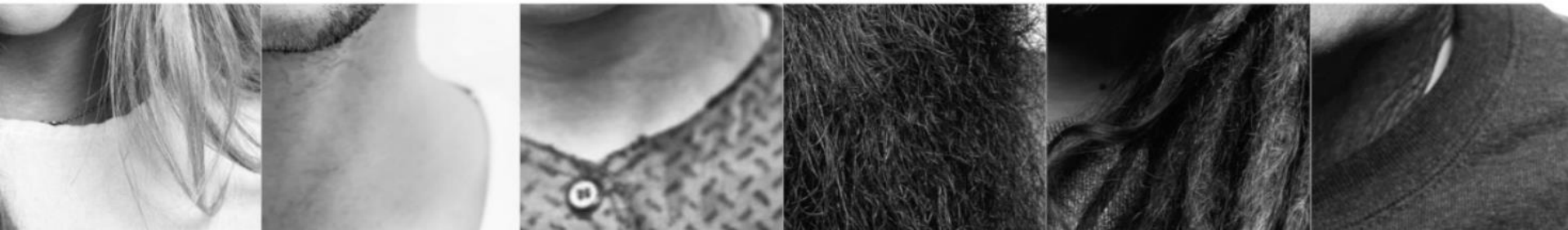


I HAVE A FRIEND WHO...





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STRUGGLES TO FORGIVE

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“Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.” *Martin Luther King Jr*

“I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise, it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him.” *C.S. Lewis*

“Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.”

Corrie ten Boom

“Forgiveness... started with a choice and then became a process.” ***Scarlett Lewis-***

*her son was killed in the 2012
Sandy Hook Elementary shooting*

Why is it so difficult to forgive?

- **We have been hurt in the past**
- **They need to pay for what they have done**
- **We like feeling like someone “owes” us**



Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

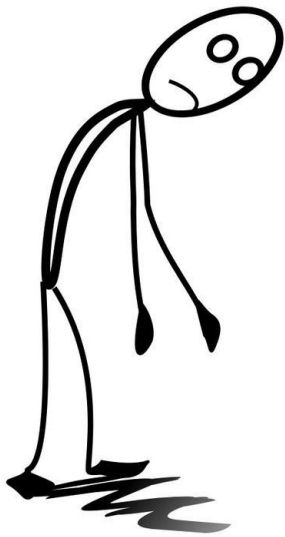
32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

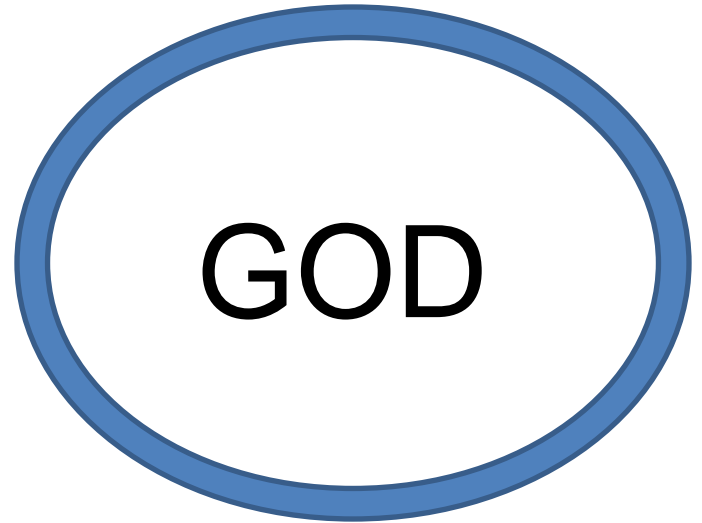
Matthew 18:21-35

- **The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go**
- **a hundred silver coins vs ten thousand bags of gold**
- **forgive your brother or sister from your heart**

We can easily stay focused on how others have wronged us



Quickly forgetting how
much more we wrong
God



**“But if you do not forgive others
their sins, your Father will not
forgive your sins.”**

Matthew 6:15

Philippians 2-1-8

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2-1-8

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2-1-8

**In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ
Jesus: Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with
God something to be used to his own
advantage;**

Philippians 2-1-8

rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Colossians 3:13

“‘He himself bore our sins’ in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...”

1 Peter 2:24

The cost of unforgiveness?

- **Ruined Relationships**
- **Personal Peace**
- **The witness of Christ**

We cannot offer the forgiveness of God to our community, while we refuse to forgive one another

We need to live out of our identity as the forgiven flawed, and not as people that have been wronged and are somehow owed something...we are wonderfully saved