

WHY

Happening Now



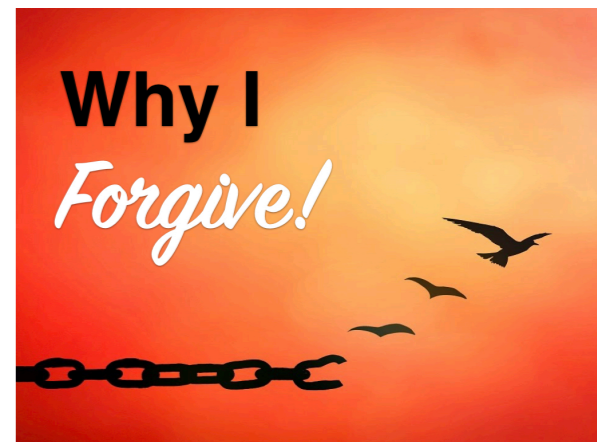
Why I

Forgive!



Matthew 6:14-15

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”



Colossians 3:12-13

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”





**I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU – YOU
HAVEN'T FORGIVEN THAT MONGREL
WHO RAN OFF WITH YOUR SISTER**

#STUFFJESUSNEVERSAID

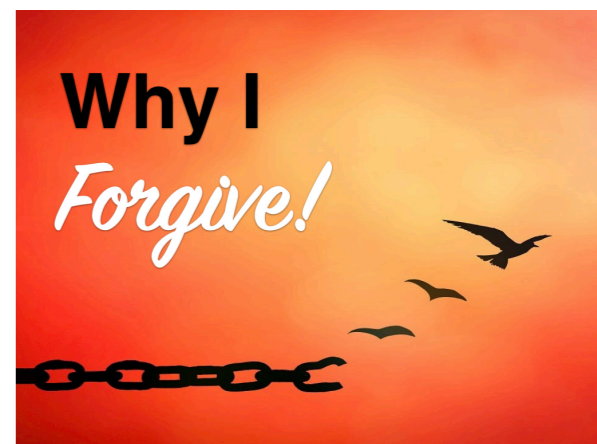
Two verses seem to contradict.

Did you spot the difference?

The **first** statement says
forgiveness starts with us.

The **second** statement says
forgiveness begins with God.

So which is it?



“The Sermon on the Mount is the most eloquent exposition of old covenant law ever preached. Jesus preached it before the cross to people who were living under the law.” **Paul Ellis**

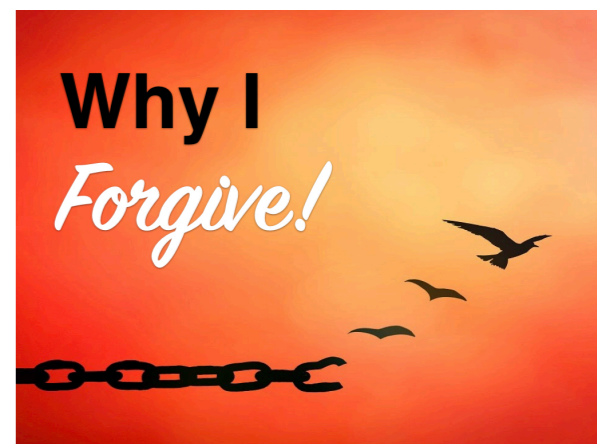
Matthew 5:48 *“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

John 13:34

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

New order of sacrifice.

Love :-- Sacrificially ascribing infinite worth to another.

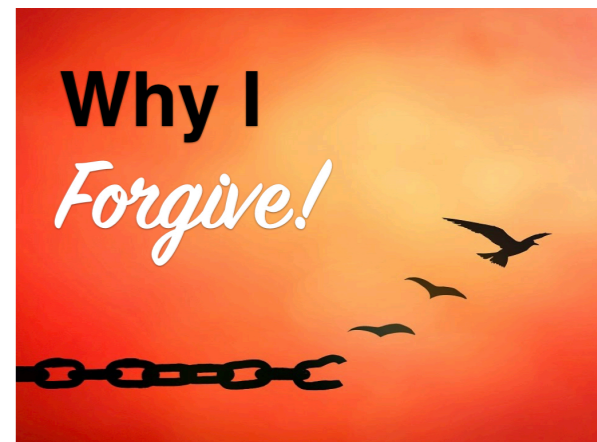


1 Corinthians 13:5

“...it (love) takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].”

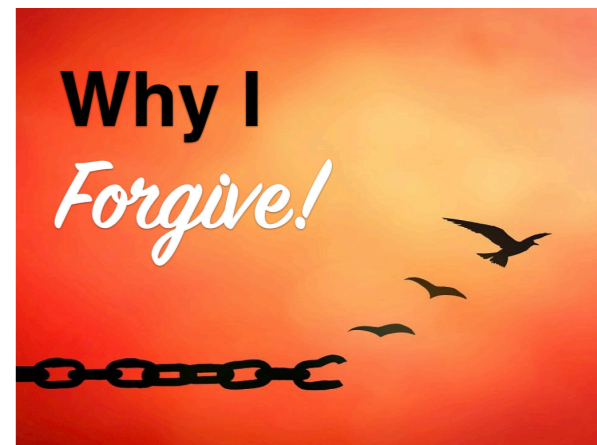
Proverbs 17:9

“He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.”



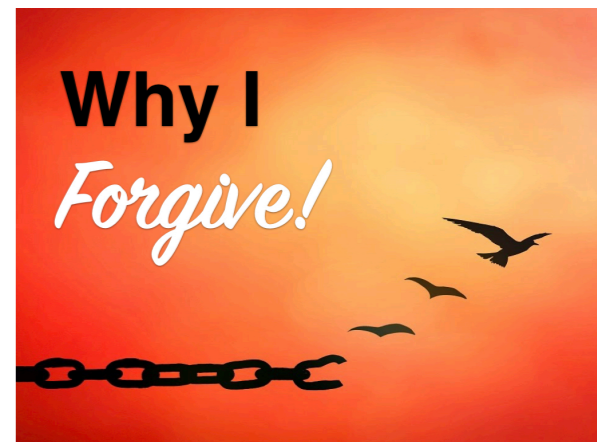
1 Peter 4:8 {AMP}

“Above all things have intense and unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others].”



Acts 5:31

“Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”



Luke 24:46-47

“Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”



Remission:— (Aphesis)

1. release from bondage or imprisonment

2. forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty

Forgiveness is not something God does, it's something He's done.



Psalm 103:10-12

“He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”



1. Removes Our Transgressions
2. Remembers Our Sins No More
3. Releases Us From Iniquities

Iniquities:— Inward motivation ..
Heart ... Attitude ... Out of line

Transgressions:— Outward
movement .. Hand ... Action

“As far as east is from west”

Completely and Forever!



William Arthur Ward

“Thoughts of a Christian Optimist”

wrote:

Most like beasts when we kill.

Most like men when we judge.

Most like God when we forgive.



Philip Yancey

What's So Amazing About Grace

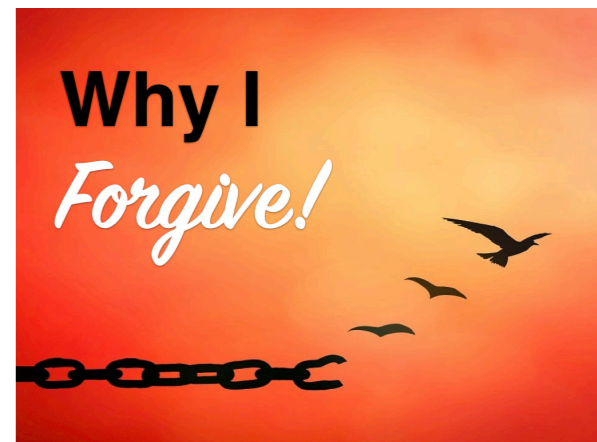
“...plays like a background static of life for families, nations, and institutions.

[Unforgiveness] is sadly our **NATURAL** human state. We nurse sores, go to elaborate lengths to rationalize our behavior, perpetuate family feuds, punish ourselves, punish others—all to avoid the most **UNNATURAL** act of forgiving.”



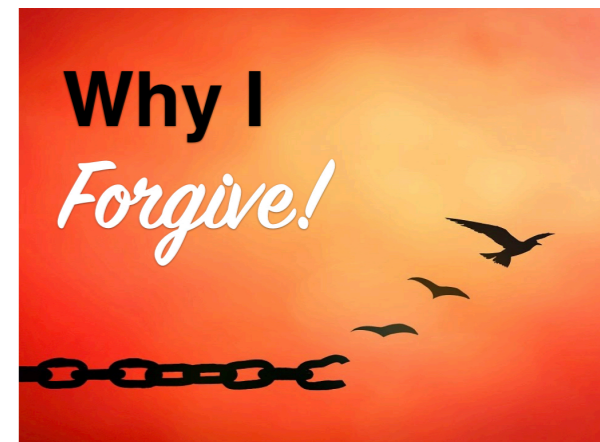
Marghanita Laski, a well known secular humanist and novelist, not long before she died in 1988, in television interview said:

“What I envy most about you Christians is your **forgiveness**; I have nobody to forgive me.”



Karen Swartz M.D (John Hopkins)

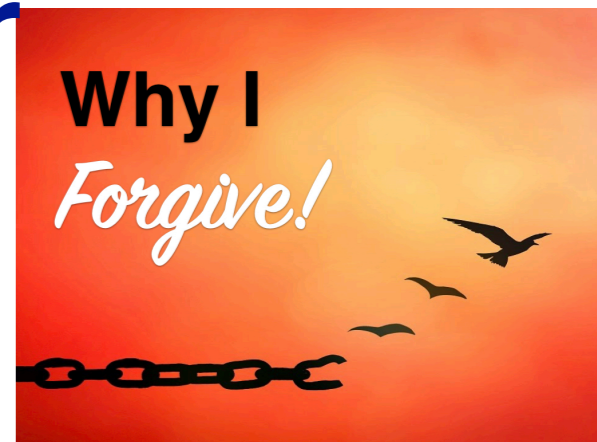
“There is an enormous physical burden to being hurt and disappointed, ... increase the risk of depression, heart disease and diabetes, among other conditions. Forgiveness, however, calms stress levels, leading to improved health.”



Can't forgive people who devalue my worth. If you mistreat me then you owe me.

Unforgiveness allows the other who offends you to define you.

Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for your offender to die.



Philippians 4:19

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

The power to forgive is rooted in your identity in Christ. My worth cannot be diminished because my value is in Christ.

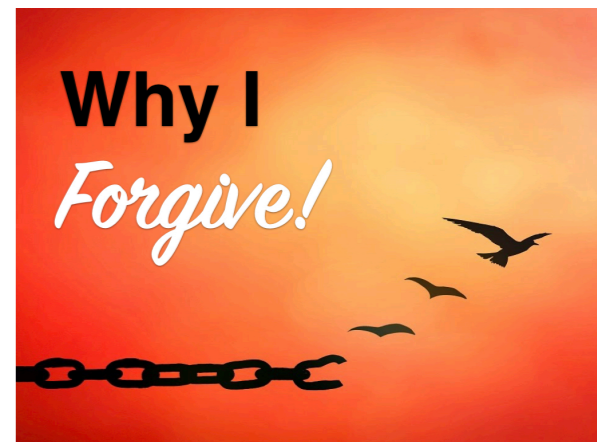


Matthew 18:21-35

“... So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Only Two Responses:

1. Thank you for your great grace!
2. Walk away unchanged.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

HEALING OUR PAST

FIRST HEARING - EAST LONDON 15 - 18 APRIL 1996



Why I

Forgive!

