

1. What is the stupidest thing you have fought about in your marriage or a relationship? What caused the fight and made it so important at the time?
2. Why are "incompatibility issues" common and to be expected between people?

**Read Matthew 18:21-35.**

3. What makes forgiveness so difficult for people?
4. Peter thinks he's being generous in offering to forgive seven times. What is Jesus' standard?
5. What is Jesus trying to drive home with his story he tells? (One commentator says this: "...ten thousand talents probably represented more than the entire annual income of the king, and perhaps more than all the actual coinage in circulation in Egypt at the time!"- C.S. Keener)
6. What is the difference between forgiving someone and trusting someone? Should you always trust those you have forgiven? Why?
7. What does it take to be a forgiving person? (Read Colossians 3:13)
8. Read Matthew 18:35. What role does our heart play in forgiveness? How does God respond to us when we forgive?
9. Take a moment right now and write down who the Holy Spirit is asking you to forgive.

Pray this prayer: *Jesus, you have shown me I need to forgive \_\_\_\_\_ . I'm not sure I'm ready and I'm not sure how but I make a commitment right now to follow you and I'm willing to be lead to the place where I will forgive. I can't do it alone. Please help me. Thank you for forgiving me. Amen.*

You may need to start your journey of forgiveness by forgiving yourself. Here is a prayer for you.

*Dear Jesus, today I want to forgive myself. I have made many choices that have hurt you, hurt others and hurt myself. You tell me there is freedom in your forgiveness so I ask for your forgiveness first. Thank you that you have forgiven me. Help me to live in forgiveness of myself and forgiveness of others. Amen.*

## **Two-Getherness - "Marriage Is Hard. It Can Get Better"**

Pastor David & Pam Cooke

**Matthew 18:21-35**

### **Reality Check!**

Every relationship (except with Jesus) consists of two notorious sinners trying to get along.

James 4:17

### **Leading Cause of Divorce?**

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### **A Story: Two Sponges**

Matthew 18:21-35

For a follower of Jesus, unforgiveness is not an option  
We play by different rules - Matthew 18:21-22

What is required for someone to need forgiveness?  
If you haven't said "sorry" lately, you aren't being honest.

## **The Path To It Getting Better**

### **1. Forgiveness Does Not Require \_\_\_\_\_**

Colossians 3:13

- a) Unforgiveness will ALWAYS lead to bitterness
- b) Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.

### **2. But \_\_\_\_\_ Opens the Door to \_\_\_\_\_**

The state of forgiveness/unforgiveness is shown in:

- a) How we \_\_\_\_\_
- b) How we \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Not what we say

### **Restoration Requires Forgiveness AND \_\_\_\_\_**

Rebuilding Trust

- a) Trust \_\_\_\_\_ first
- b) Give them a \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ betrayal isn't possible
- d) Not holding it against them is \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Guard your heart

*"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life"*

*Proverbs 4:23 ESV*

## **Being a More Forgiving Person**

The more we personally understand and experience grace, the more able we are to forgive.

Luke 7: 36-50

## **Forgiveness is a Heart Issue**

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." Matt 18:35 NIV

## **Let It Go**

Every relationship that matters will struggle at some point. Forgiveness will determine if things get better. Unforgiveness kills everything.

The essence of marriage is a man and a woman daily seeking to live out a sacrificial commitment for the good of the other.

Answers : Unforgiveness, Repentance, Repentance, Restoration, Act, Talk, Trust, Trust, God, Chance, Forgetting, Possible