

The High Cost of Unforgiveness¹ vs. the High Reward of Forgiveness

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

UNFORGIVENESS

Unforgiveness blocks the door to salvation and God's forgiveness.

If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15).

Unforgiveness allows a root of bitterness to grow.

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many (Hebrews 12:15).

Unforgiveness opens a door to Satan in our lives.

I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:10-11).

Unforgiveness causes us to walk in darkness.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness....whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him (1 John 2:9-11).

Unforgiveness is of Satan.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness opens the door to salvation and God's forgiveness.

Forgiveness keeps a root of bitterness from growing.

Forgiveness closes a door to Satan in our lives.

Forgiveness brings us into the light.

Forgiveness is of God.

If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts.... Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil (James 3:14-15).

Unforgiveness reflects a godless heart.

Forgiveness reflects a godly heart.

*The godless in heart harbor resentment;
even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help
(Job 36:13).*

Unforgiveness makes us captive to sin.

Forgiveness frees us.

*I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin
(Acts 8:23).*

Unforgiveness grieves the Spirit of God.

Forgiveness is empowered by the Spirit of God.

*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice
(Ephesians 4:30-31).*

1. Nieder and Thompson, *Forgive & Love Again* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1991), pp. 47-51.

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