

TEST FOR UNFORGIVENESS

Forgiving people is an issue all Christians face. The devil wants us to focus on the natural, rather than realizing that he is behind the scenes pulling the strings to set us against one another. The danger in unforgiveness is that it separates, which fights true unity; but it is also a covenant breaking issue. The Christian we don't forgive is a friend of God, so when we touch him, we touch God. That's why scripture says we ourselves are not forgiven if we don't forgive others. In fact, 1 John 4:20-21 says that you can't hate a brother and love God. These questions should help determine if there has been true forgiveness from the heart.

- Can you pray for them without difficulty?
- Does it bother you when they succeed or get blessed?
- Do you feel they owe you an apology?
- Do you feel they have to repent first to be forgiven by you?
- Do you feel they don't deserve to be forgiven?
- When you think of them, do you experience anger?
- Would you go out of your way to avoid seeing them?
- Can you, in all truth, say you love them?
- Do you feel justified in isolating or holding back from them?
- Do you feel they've gotten away with something?
- Could you meet a genuine need the person may have?

Scriptures:

Matthew 6:14-15

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1 John 4:20-21

Mark 11:22-26

1 John 1:6-7

John 20:23

Matthew 5:44

Galatians 6:1

Ephesians 6:12

Matthew 18:21-35

Luke 23:34

Ephesians 4:32

NOTE: Forgiveness is often not easily or quickly realized – sometimes it takes days, weeks or months, and often requires regularly praying for the person or persons you are trying to release (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28).