

# The Art of Forgiving

## [Ephesians 4:31 -32](#)

<sup>31</sup>“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

## [James 1:2-8](#)

What is sin?

1. Any activity or thoughts that are opposed to the will of God is sin, a transgression of God’s law.  
[I John 3:4-5](#); [James 4:17](#)
2. While all sin is against God, often they have real world repercussions against our fellow man.  
[Matt. 18:15-16](#); [I Sam. 2:25](#)
3. When we have wronged another or been wronged, it can too easily lead to bitterness and cause additional strife. [Heb. 12:14-15](#)

Forgiveness through Grace:

1. Our forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross was not deserved or earned. [Eph. 2:8-9](#)
2. Because of the complete work of the cross, all sins have been forgiven. [Heb. 10:12](#)
3. We are called to pass that grace forgiveness on to our fellow man. [II Cor. 2:7](#)

Forgiveness when it’s not easy:

1. Disagreements and conflict are common, even amongst members of the church. [Acts 15:36-39](#)
2. Failure to forgiveness is often manifested in anger, bitterness, grudges, a malicious attitude, a lack of care or concern for another, acts of retaliation or revenge.
3. Satan does not want us to be forgiving, hoping to use the anger and bitterness to keep our eyes off the father and mired in worldly conflict. [II Cor. 2:11](#)
4. Forgiveness comes from the transgressed, without action from the transgressor. [Luke 23:34](#)
5. Remember that suffering is part of the Christian existence. [I Peter 3:8-17](#)
6. Have patience with those that have wronged you, lest you also stumble. [Gal. 6:1-2](#)
7. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. [Rom. 12:18](#)