

# Overcoming The Problem Of Forgiveness

## Genesis 50:15-21; 2 Corinthians 2:6-11

### Introduction:

1. Forgiveness is a problem in the Christian life because it is so hard to do. It is one of the most difficult things to do, yet one of the most needed.
2. In this lesson, we will examine two portions of Scripture:
  - 2 Corinthians 2:6-11 – In this passage, the apostle Paul is encouraging the church at Corinth to forgive a young man who had repented after committing the sin of fornication.
  - Genesis 50:15-21 – In this passage, Joseph forgives his eleven brothers who had plotted against him, sold him into slavery, and then lied to their father to cover up their sin.

### Why is forgiveness such an important issue for the believer?

1. Because unforgiveness allows \_\_\_\_\_ to gain ground in our lives.  
2 Corinthians 2:10-11
  - Satan deals with \_\_\_\_\_. When we refuse to forgive, he uses this to produce bondage in our lives.
2. Because unforgiveness can destroy the \_\_\_\_\_ that we refuse to forgive. 2 Corinthians 2:7-8
3. Because unforgiveness hinders the entire \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.  
2 Corinthians 2:9
  - The Bible likens the church to a body.
  - *“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”*  
**1 Corinthians 12:27**

## Why is it so difficult to forgive when we have been wronged?

1. Because we want to see them \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Corinthians 2:6
  - We want \_\_\_\_\_ for offenses suffered.
  - We want to see **them** suffer, but **we** are the ones that end up suffering. This is why we are commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ vengeance with God.
  - *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”*  
**Romans 12:19**
2. Because, if we forgive, we feel as if we are letting them off the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - It appears that Joseph struggled with this (Genesis 42-44). He did not immediately reveal himself and offer forgiveness to his brothers.
  - People protest, “Why should I forgive them and let them off the hook?” Forgiveness lets them off of **your** hook, but they are never off of \_\_\_\_\_ hook.
  - If you don’t let them off your hook, you are hooked to them and the past, and that just means continued \_\_\_\_\_ for you.
3. Because of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - *“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”* **Proverbs 13:10**
  - Unforgiveness and grudges can destroy your \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
4. So how do we forgive? Next week, we will examine five key principles from the life of Joseph that will help us to be victorious!