

1. Forgiveness in your family is not "if," but "when".

Colossians 3:12-14

The most comprehensive way to understand the word "forgiveness" is "to cancel all indebtedness".

The language of the New Testament defining "forgiveness:

Aphemie is found 150 times in the New Testament and when it's translated "to forgive," the basic concept is "to send away".

Apoluo is another Greek word translated as "forgive" and it generally means to "to free fully, to release".

Charizomai means "to kindly pardon or rescue".



2. Forgiveness is essential if you expect to redeem failure in your family.

To “redeem” is to “change for the better, to repair or restore”.

Titus 2:11-14

“Failure” can be described as “falling short of what is required or due”.

Repairing (redeeming) what fell short (failure) by canceling all indebtedness (forgiveness).



6 steps are required for redeeming failure in your family:

1. Confrontation in terms of clarifying who has failed at what.
2. Admission by the offender that such a failure occurred.
3. Forgiveness sought out by offender.
4. Forgiveness granted by the offended.
5. Restoration of the relationship evidenced by both parties being able to lovingly move forward together.
6. Lessons learned and applied to future decisions and circumstances that family members face.

Ephesians 4:26



3. You can forgive because of what you've been forgiven.

*Colossians 3:13; Romans 5:8; 1 John 1:9;
Romans 12:17-18*

The opposite of forgiveness – bitterness towards another due to what they've done to you – will not only paralyze the relationships that you have in your family, but will keep you from being effective as a person of Jesus influence in all aspects of your relational world.

Hebrews 12:14-15

Resource to Recommend: Forging What You Can't Forget by Lysa Terkeurst

Table Talk conversation question: "Why is forgiving so hard to do again and again in our family?"

