

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE OF FORGIVENESS

Scripture Reading:

Mark 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION

One of Satan's mental attacks on a believer is to hold an unforgiving (literally 'ungracious') attitude toward another believer because of:

- * an **offence** by the other believer, or
- * a **complaint** toward the other believer.

In order to more fully understand the Satanic attack of **unforgiveness**, we must first understand what constitutes **forgiveness**.

Two Words Translated “Forgive” in the New Testament

- **αφιημι** (a-phe'-a-me)
 - *To ‘leave’ or ‘send away’*
 - Matt 4:19-22; Matt 3:13-15
 - *To ‘forgive’ (send away)*
 - A monetary debt
 - Matt 18:23-27

Two Words Translated “Forgive” in the New Testament (cont.)

■ ἀφίημι (a-phe'-a-me)

– ‘sin’ (Mk 2:4-7)

- Sin is lawlessness: acting as if God has no requirements - I Jn 3:4
- Sin is only against God - Ps 51: 1-4a
 - *David’s sin affected Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah*
- Sin is only forgiven by God - Mk 2:7

Two Words Translated “Forgive” in the New Testament (cont.)

■ **αφιημι** (a-phe'-a-me)

– ‘sin’ (Mk 2:4-7)

■ Sin’s affects can be forgiven by believers -
Matt 18:21-2

– “...how often shall be brother sin (“against”
KJV) with reference to me?”


■ Sin against God (only) can affect a person (who
is the object of another person’s sin)

■ Sin against God can be a trespass (Offence)
against me

– Cf Mk 11:25-26

NOTE!

During the OT and Christ's early life, a person had to forgive others in order to be forgiven by God!



Today, since Pentecost, the grace believer has been forgiven all sin and trespasses against God at salvation

Eph 1:7; Col 1:14, 2:13



The grace believer should forgive others because God has already forgiven him

Col 3:13

CONCLUSION

All sin is against God.

The sins of others may sometimes affect me and you.

When the sin of others affects us, it is called a trespass (or offence). We can forgive (send away) that offence from someone else, on the basis and motivation of Christ's having forgiven us of all offences (and sins)