



THE LORD'S PRAYER

FORGIVE US



MATTHEW 6:12 (NIV)

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.



LUKE 11:4a (NIV)

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.



MATTHEW 22:37-38 (NIV)

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment.



MATTHEW 22:39 (NIV)

And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”



1 JOHN 1:8-9 (NIV)

[8] If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and **will forgive us** our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



MATTHEW 6:14-15 (NIV)

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.



In commanding us to forgive others, Jesus is not saying that the injustice we have suffered is inconsequential. The sin we commit causes pain. The sins committed against us cause pain. Rather, **Jesus is refusing to let sin have the last word in our story.**

Will Willimon, Lord Teach Us



In commanding us to forgive, Jesus is not producing a race of doormats, a new set of victims who, having been slapped on the right cheek, offer the left as well so that they may be twice victimized. Jesus has no interest in producing victims; the world produces enough.



Rather, in commanding us to forgive, Jesus is inviting us to take charge, to turn the world around, to throw a monkey wrench in the eternal wheel of retribution and vengeance. We don't have to sit silently to suffer the hurt, to lick our wounds, lying in wait for the day when we shall at last be able to return the blow that was dealt to us. We can take charge, turn things around, be victors rather than victims. We can forgive.

Will Willimon, Lord Teach Us



Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.



We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer: A Penitent Order, Rite Two

