

HOW TO LOVE SOMEONE WHO IS HARD TO LOVE.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that *you love one another..*"



even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

LOVING THOSE HARD TO LOVE



Luke 6:35 "*But love your ENEMIES, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return..*"

“And your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High...”

“For He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.”

CONSIDERING PERSONAL ENEMIES

Mat 5:44 "Love your enemies" (Agapao)
"To regard the welfare of." Thayers.



Prov 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. (Rom 12:20)



Ex 23:4 "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him."



Ex 23:5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying helpless .. you shall release it with him.

OT DEALT WITH HATING !

(Ps 139:22) “I hate those that hate Thee with a PERFECT hatred.”

(Ps 119:113) “I hate those of a double-mind.”

(Ps 119:158) “I behold the treacherous and Loathe them.”



Matt 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’
44 “But I say to you, love your enemies.”

WHO IS HARD TO LOVE?



We will be discussing
Difficult People- NOT
Serial killers, Mass
Murderers, ISIS,
or Home Invaders !

Pushy “Know it Alls” (Experts on everything in life).
Noisy neighbors or dogs (Thoughtless, careless).
Addicts & compulsive liars (Drugs/Alcohol/Psycho).
Abusers of any kind (Physical, emotional, financial)
Emotional manipulators (Nobody cares about me).
Blamers, complainers, and false-accusers.
Intrusive, rude, endless talkers, irritating relatives. 5

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(Luke 6:32) Jesus says *“If you love those who love YOU, what credit is that to you?”*
v.32 for even sinners love those who love them.”

HOW TO LOVE SOMEONE WHO IS HARD TO LOVE.

1. Pray for them

Matt 5:44 “But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray *for those* who persecute you.”

a. Pray repeatedly for them. (1 Tim 2:1)

b. Look in the mirror-

Consider how they may see you.

c. Ask how God sees ‘em thru His eyes.

d. List their good qualities.

e. Pray for them to blessed, not cursed. (Rom 12:14)



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1 Peter 3:8 Let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and *Humble* in spirit.

2. Humble Yourself

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble* yourselves.. under the mighty hand of God.

Eph 4:2 “With all *humility*, gentleness.. patience, showing forbearance to one another in love.”



Be Willing to *Apologize*

Apologizing doesn't always mean you were *wrong* and the other person is *right*.



It just means you value your *relationship* more than your ego.

Sun

Rom 12:3

**“I say to every man
among you *not to think
more highly* of himself
than he ought to think;
but to think so as to have
sound judgment.”**

**Where
Are
You?**

Jupiter



Earth

Pluto

HOW TO LOVE SOMEONE WHO IS HARD TO LOVE.

3. Learn their Journey

Col 3:12 “Chosen of God, holy & beloved, put on a heart of *compassion*..”

Take time to understand others' backgrounds and how their past affects them today.

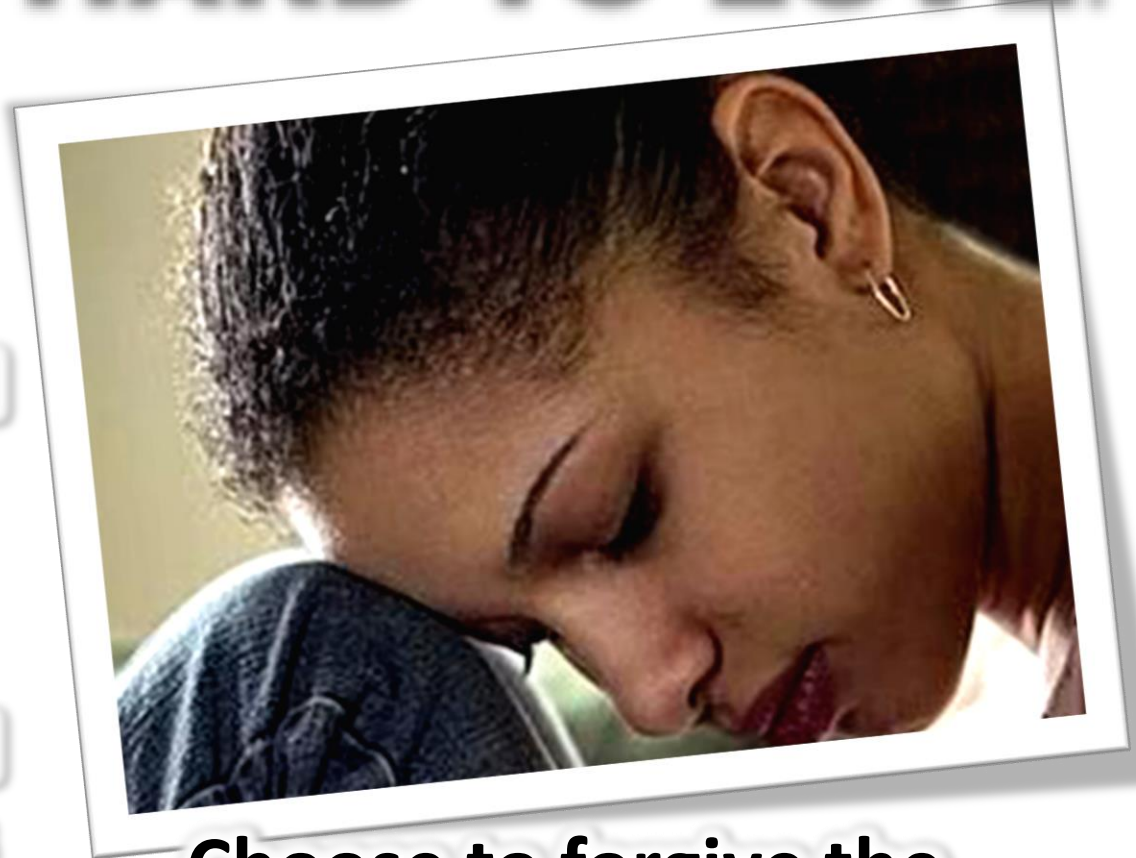
Why is a man agitated at the mention of *God*?

Why is a woman caustic to most *all men*?

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4. Forgive Them.

Eph 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, *forgiving each other*, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”



Choose to forgive the enormous pain people have caused & leave it at the cross.

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Luke 17:4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, & returns to you seven times, saying, 'i repent, forgive him.'"

BALANCING
THE SCALES OF
JUSTICE
WITH

Forgiveness and Repentance

Repentance is part of the plan for forgiveness.

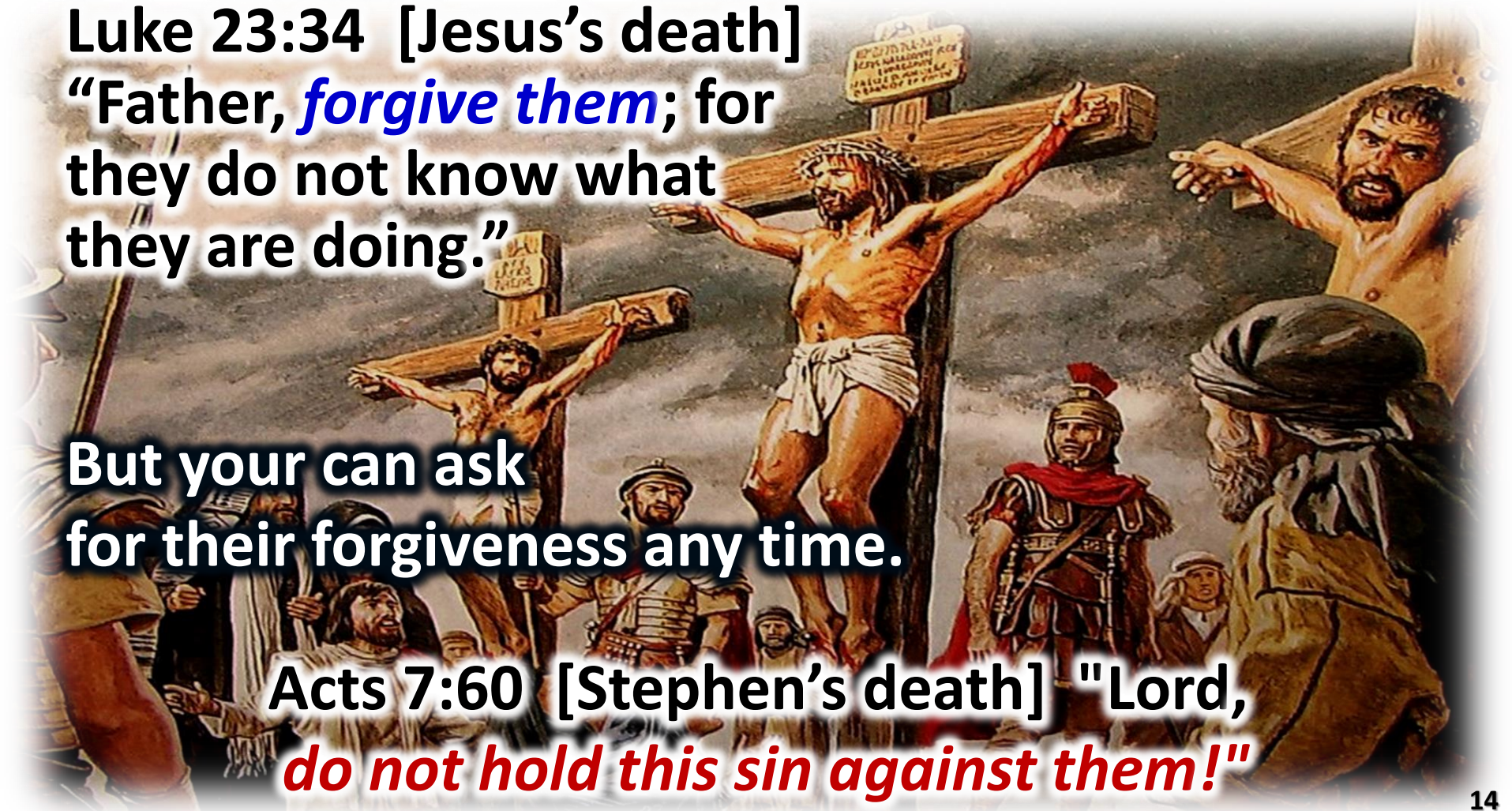
Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore & return, that your sins may be wiped away."

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Luke 23:34 [Jesus's death]
"Father, *forgive them*; for they do not know what they are doing."

But you can ask for their forgiveness any time.

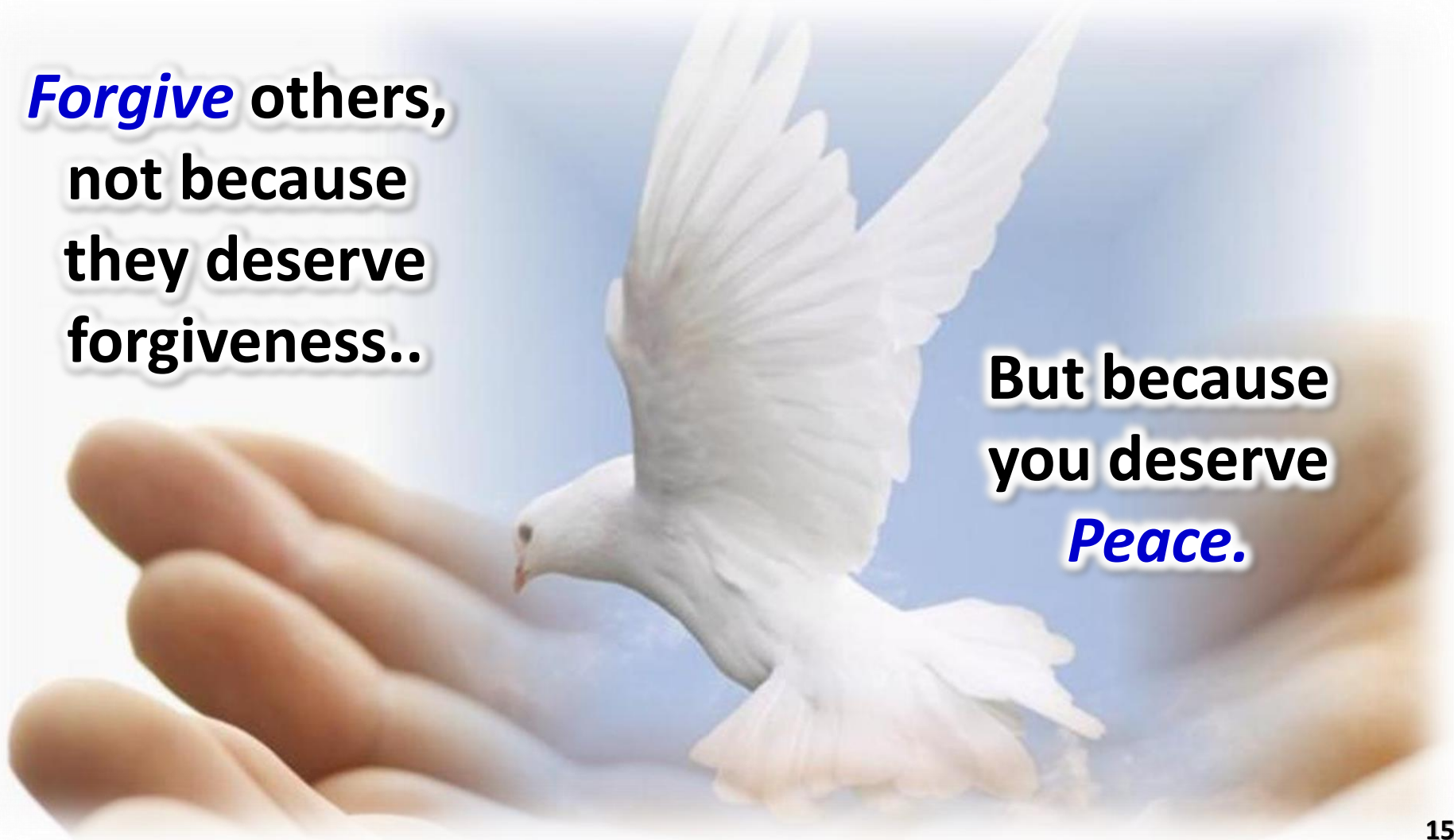
Acts 7:60 [Stephen's death] "Lord, *do not hold this sin against them!*"



HOW TO LOVE SOMEONE WHO IS HARD TO LOVE.

Forgive others,
not because
they deserve
forgiveness..

But because
you deserve
Peace.



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5. Create Healthy Boundaries

Accept no *unhealthy* demands. (Prov 30:15)

Are you *peaceful* (Col 3:15) / *joyful* (Rom 14:17)

Don't assume their *responsibility* (Gal 6:5)

Does it involve *questionable* action (1 Cor 8:21)

They must face own *consequences* (Gal 6:7)

Does it involve real *danger*? (Prov 22:3)

Is it Edifying or just *co-dependent*? (Rom 14:19)

Is it just plain *foolish* for you to do? (Ps 101:3)

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6. Accept Who They Are Currently

Rom 14:1 Now *accept the one* who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

Lk 10:32
Herod
was a Fox



Mat 3:7
Pharisees
& Sadducees
were snakes

Some people are in their "*final form*." (Eccles 3:6a)
Some folks are just plain "*Broken*." (Prov 29:1)
God might change them, not us. (Lk 18:27)

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7. Pray for Your Own Heart

Ps 139:23 “Search me, O God, *and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;*

24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Ask God to soften your heart to understand other's struggles.



**“Those who are hardest to love need
it the most.”**

— Socrates

**Those who are the hardest to love are the
ones who teach us the most about
ourselves.**

**They reveal to us where our boundaries lie.
Show us where our unconditional love
falters, and becomes splintered into
conditional love.**