

Walking with God: Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not easy, yet we all know God asks us to do it. Let's read some passages from the Bible and the Catechism that talk about God's expectations and how we can meet them when it comes to forgiveness.

Have someone read:

- **Colossians 3:13**
- **Matthew 6:14-15**
- **Luke 6:37**
- **CCC 2842**
- **CCC 2843**

Discussion Questions:

1. Does it seem like God's expectations are too hard?
2. The quotes from the Catechism are difficult to understand. What do you think is the key point they are trying to make? For example, what do you think they mean when they say "there has to be a vital participation, coming from the depths of the heart, in the holiness and the mercy and the love of our God"?
3. Have you had an experience where you felt God helped you forgive someone you didn't think you could forgive?
4. How do you forgive chronic sin, someone who keeps sinning against you over and over again?
5. Before asking this last question, let's think a bit about a couple of times that Jesus forgave:
 - a. When he was dying on the cross, he asked God to forgive those putting him to death "for they know not what they do".
 - b. Shortly after he was arrested, Peter, Jesus' right hand man among the apostles, denied that he even knew Jesus, within earshot of Jesus. That's like a best friend abandoning you in your most dire time of need. Later, after Jesus rose from the dead, he made clear to Peter that he forgave him and that he would still be his apostle leading his Church.

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? This can be contemplated in silence.