

**Building Community Part 4
Choosing to Forgive**

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Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)
¹⁶ Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

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Proverbs 18:19-21 (NIV)
¹⁹ An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel. ²⁰ From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. ²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death . . .

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James 3:5-6 (NLT)

⁵ So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. ⁶ And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction

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Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT)

¹⁵ "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the fault. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.

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Choose to humble yourself and acknowledge the sin.

James 4:6 (NIV)

... "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ...

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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.

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2. Choose to ask forgiveness.

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Luke 11:4 (NIV)

⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

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2. Choose to ask forgiveness.

Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)

³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

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2. Choose to ask forgiveness.

Psalms 139:23-24 (NIV)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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2. Choose to ask forgiveness.

Luke 11:4 (NIV)

⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

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3. Choose to extend forgiveness

Luke 23:34-35 (NIV)
³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

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3. Choose to extend forgiveness

Matthew 18:23-27 (NIV)
²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

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3. Choose to extend forgiveness

Matthew 18:28-30 (NIV)
²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

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3. Choose to extend forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

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3. Choose to extend forgiveness

1 Corinthians 11:28-29 (NLT)

²⁸ That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking from the cup. ²⁹ For if you eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily, not honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself.
