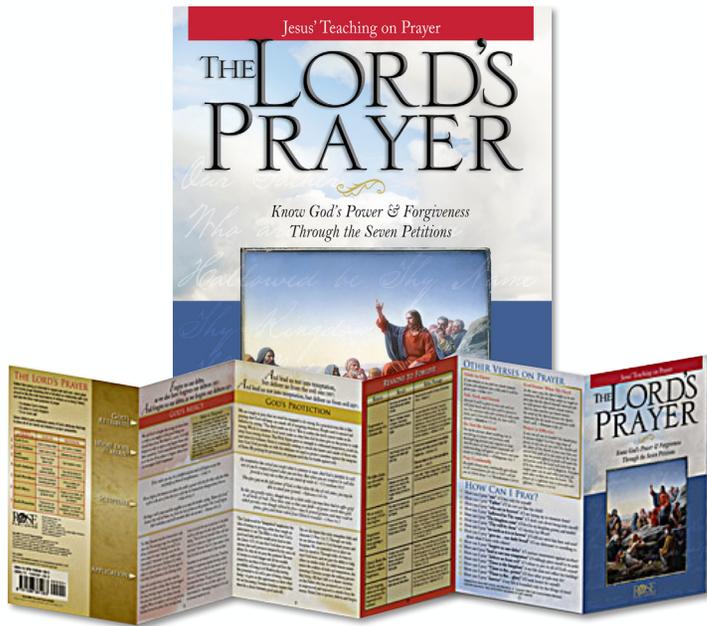


# REASONS TO FORGIVE

Reason	Result	Bible Passage
Forgiveness is characteristic of a Christian life.	By loving our enemies, we show that we are children of God.	Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. —Matthew 5:7
	When a Christian refuses to forgive, that person puts himself above God as judge.	You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. —Matthew 5: 43-45
We follow Jesus, our role model, who forgave.	Only through Jesus are we forgiven and made right with God.	Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. —Ephesians 4:32  Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. —1 John 2:6
	Whatever we may suffer cannot come close to the offenses Jesus Christ forgave during his time on earth.	Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." —Luke 23:34
We are made in the image of God, who forgives	We reflect the beauty and glory of our Creator when we forgive.	A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense. —Proverbs 19:11
Forgiveness keeps Satan from gaining a foothold.	Forgiveness frees the conscience of guilt and brings peace of mind.	If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. —2 Corinthians 2:10, 11
Christ's Body, the Church, cannot function without forgiveness.	Grudges and resentments tarnish the Church's witness and prevent the full benefits of God's gifts.	Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. —Matthew 5:23, 24
Only by forgiving others can we expect our own prayers for forgiveness to be answered.	God will treat us in the same way we treat others.	For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. —Matthew 6:14, 15



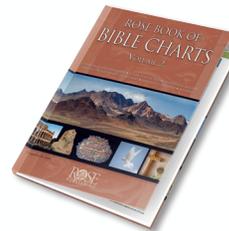
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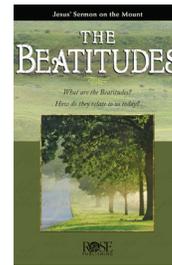


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