

No. 16 Loyalloy Uphold Jehovah's Judgments (Symposium)
 -Be Forgiving

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

JEHOVAH IS FORGIVING (2 min.)

Satan's world glorifies vengeance and retaliation

In sharp contrast, Jehovah is "ready to forgive" [Read Psalm 86:5]

He is on the lookout for any evidence that would provide a basis for him to show mercy to a repentant wrongdoer

Through the local elders, Jehovah even reaches out to disfellowshipped ones who have given some evidence of changing their ways (w15 4/15 31 ¶4)

Jehovah forgives freely and generously (Isa 55:7)

His willingness to forgive our many sins endears him to us (Jas 3:2)

FORGIVE OTHERS (3 min.)

What is forgiveness?

Forgiveness involves pardoning an offender who is repentant

To forgive also suggests the idea of letting go of something

(g 9/14 11 ¶4)

This does not mean minimizing the offense or acting as if it never occurred but, rather, letting go of any resentment it caused

When Peter asked how many times he should forgive his brother, Jesus related a thought-provoking illustration (Mt 18:21-34)

A king canceled the enormous debt owed him by a slave; then the man refused to show mercy to a fellow slave who owed him a small amount of money in comparison; in response, the king was provoked to wrath and handed the man over to the jailers until he repaid his enormous debt

To receive Jehovah's forgiveness, we must forgive others

[Read Matthew 18:35]

FORGIVE YOURSELF (2 min.)

How completely does Jehovah forgive even serious sin?

If we repent and abandon a wrong course, Jehovah erases our sin completely (Ac 3:19; 1Jo 1:7)

There is "joy in heaven" when a sinner repents (Lu 15:7)

Do not allow feelings of guilt to overwhelm you (1Jo 3:19, 20)

In the following dramatization, note how the congregation can imitate Jehovah in extending forgiveness

VIDEO (3 min.)

LOYALLY CONTINUE TO UPHOLD JEHOVAH'S JUDGMENTS (2 min.)

To be successful in upholding Jehovah's judgments, we must cherish loyalty to our God

Rather than seek loopholes in order to bypass Jehovah's judgments, loyal Christians try to discern the wisdom behind Jehovah's commands

Then obeying him becomes a pleasure

Jehovah's judgments are clearly outlined in the Scriptures

In imitation of our heavenly Father, let us (1) hate what Jehovah hates, (2) shun unrepentant wrongdoers, and (3) be forgiving

This will lead to everlasting blessings!

TO BE COVERED IN 12 MINUTES