



The Forgiveness App
Romans 12:17-21
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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Idea: Forgiven people forgive.

Introduction:

The second most recognizable icon in the world is the Coca-Cola logo.



There is one symbol that is more recognizable than Coke, and that is the Cross.



Many don't see the Cross as being relevant in their life, but today, I want us to look at the very practical application of the cross to everyday life.

The Cross is more than a symbol to adorn your home or wear around your neck.

To illustrate how important the cross is or can be in your life, think back to a time when someone hurt you, let you down, or wronged you. Then, think of the grudge you had or were tempted to have against that person.

Along with the grudge came fantasies about exacting revenge, right? We think that a secret fantasy doesn't hurt anyone, or acting out on that revenge plan will make us feel better. But a grudge is too sinister for that.

The **longer** you hold onto it, the **longer** it holds onto you.

Is **grudge**-holding working for you?

There's a better way. Today, I'm not shaking my finger in your face and telling you that you should forgive. Instead, I'm going to share the good news that it is possible to overcome what's happened to you – an aggressive, intentional step in the right direction.

The Scriptures teach us that we can overcome the evil done to us through the power of forgiveness, and this power comes through the Cross.

The Cross was up close and personal, and God's message to us is, **you are forgiven.**

The most significant, spiritual act you can do is to forgive. Forgiveness is the means to overcome and move on, move forward.

There are four stages to forgiveness:

1. Embrace God's forgiveness at the cross.
2. Forgiven people forgive.
3. Let God avenge you.
4. Overcome evil with good.

Forgiveness works. Holding a grudge doesn't.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Romans 12:21.**
- Whom do you need to forgive?**
- Meditate on the forgiveness in the Cross.**
- What does overcoming evil with good look like in this relationship?**
- Join Us Next Week for Life Apps-Part 3: The Confession App.**