**WHAT IF I FORGAVE EVERYONE?**

What If? – Explore the Possibilities – Part 1

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***MEMORY VERSE***

**Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)**   
 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

***Matthew 18:15-35 Scripture Reading***

**What you get when you don’t forgive:**

* **Emotional Torment**
* **Bitterness**
* **Moodiness**
* **Sleeplessness**

**What you get when you do forgive:**

* **You’ll Experience Peace**

**Colossians 3:13-15 (NIV)**   
Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.  Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

* **You’ll Find It Easier To Forgive Yourself**
* **You’ll Experience The Fullness Of Forgiveness**

**Luke 6:37 (NIV)**   
 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

**Matthew 5:7 (NIV)**   
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**HOW TO FORGIVE**

1. **Forgive As God Forgave You**

**Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)**   
 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Jeremiah 31:34 (NLT)**   
And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

**Isaiah 38:17 (NLT)**   
Yes, this anguish was good for me, for you have rescued me from death and forgiven all my sins.

1. **Forgive Only Who You Need To Forgive**

**Matthew 18:15 (NLT)**   
**“If another believer sins against you**, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

1. **Forgive Face To Face**

**Matthew 18:15 (NLT)**   
 “If another believer sins against you, **go privately and point out the offense.** If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

What if you were to do this? What if you were to let go of the unforgiveness that so many people hang on to? What if you were to treat others as Jesus treats you, with mercy and compassion? What if you were to pray for reconciliation instead of standing in judgment? What if you were to meet face-to-face with those with whom you have conflict and seek resolution? What if you forgave everyone who has offended you in the past, and you let go of all the other resentments? Can you see how that would change your life? Can you see how it will make better relationships, how it will bring more peace into your life, how it will open the door to God's blessings?