



What happens when we refuse to forgive?



• I choose darkness as my light ...

(Matthew 6:22–23 ESV) The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. **If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!**

• I choose to rely on my heart (see below) instead of the word of God ...

(Jeremiah 17:9 NLT) The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

When we refuse to forgive ... Looking inside ...

What God tells us is happening ...	What we think is happening ...
We don't understand. We are clueless and ignorant. Our understanding is darkened due to our hardness of heart.	We understand exactly what we are doing and why we are doing it.
We sin as we do not trust God for justice. Our deceitful desires have corrupted our motivation and goal, thus corrupting our ability to accurately handle the data.	We are justified in what we are doing.
We do have the freedom to choose, but we sin when we choose contrary to God's instruction to forgive as God in Christ has forgiven us.	We can choose when to forgive and when not to forgive.
In choosing the old ways of the ungodly, we walk as the ungodly. We only fool ourselves, never God.	I can choose to not forgive and still maintain a biblical, godly walk.



When I refuse to forgive, I choose to **NOT** walk with God!

(1) **When I refuse to forgive, I choose to **NOT** walk with God, and I submit myself to living by the old ways of darkness, 4:17-19.**

—> In the old ways I walk in the hardness of my heart ...

- So my understanding will be darkened.
- And I will be alienated from the life of God.

—> In the old ways I become callous and give myself to pleasures other than God.

(2) **When I refuse to forgive, I choose to **NOT** walk with God as I turn away from instruction in the way of Jesus Christ, 4:20-31.**

- I put the old self back on, 4:22a.
- I submit myself to a way of life that is corrupted by my deceitful desires, 4:22b.
- I turn away from the renewing work of God in my life and live in contradiction to who I profess to be, 4:23-31.

(3) **When I refuse to forgive, I choose to **NOT** walk with God as I turn away from the life of love to which God directs me, 4:32-5:2.**

- When I refuse to forgive as God in Christ forgave me, I am directly disobeying God.
- When I refuse to forgive as God in Christ forgave me, and as the darkness settles over my understanding, I attempt to determine who should receive the kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness and love of God.
- So, then, as I play God and attempt to shut others out from these things (which is what a person does when his rationale and resulting decisions supersede the word of God), I lose my way and forget the forgiveness of God.