



“Requesting Forgiveness”
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Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16 (TLB)

WHY DO YOUR APOLOGIES OFTEN FALL FLAT?

What YOU consider to be a genuine and sincere Apology is RARELY what your spouse/friend considers to be a genuine and sincere apology.

APOLOGY LANGUAGES:

1. Expressing Regret Admit: _____

2. Accepting Responsibility Admit: _____

3. Making Restitution

Ask: How can I _____ things _____?

4. Genuinely Repenting

Clearly state: I _____ do _____.

5. Requesting Forgiveness

Ask: Will you please _____?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS?

Requesting forgiveness indicates:

- You want the relationship to be _____
- You realize you did _____

God's Word teaches us that when we act in ways that hurt others and God, we are to request forgiveness.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ASK JOSEPH TO FORGIVE THEM

Genesis 50:15-17 (CEV)

After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers said to each other, "What if Joseph still hates us and wants to get even with us for all the cruel things we did to him?" So they sent this message to Joseph: Before our father died, he told us, "You did some cruel and terrible things to Joseph, but you must ask him to forgive you." Now we ask you to please forgive the terrible things we did.

SAUL REQUESTS SAMUEL TO FORGIVE HIM

1 Samuel 15:24-25 (CEV)

"I have sinned," Saul admitted. "I disobeyed both you and the Lord. I was afraid... Please forgive me..."

JESUS TEACHES HIS FOLLOWERS TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:9-12 (NMB)

Pray therefore in this manner:

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS?

- Fear of not being _____ of the situation
- Fear of _____
- Fear of _____

WHY IS IT HARD TO EXTEND FORGIVENESS TO THOSE WHO HURT YOU?

- **Forgiveness is** _____.
- **It sometimes requires the forgiver to give up their pursuit for** _____.
- **The forgiver may need to live with long-lasting** _____.

Don't forget this:

You are the offender God chose to forgive.

Three Questions:

- Who is it that you need to ask to forgive you?
- Who is it that you need to forgive, even though it is costly?
- Do you have a saving relationship with God through the forgiving and redeeming sacrifice of Jesus?

ANSWER KEY:

APOLOGY LANGUAGES:

1. Expressing Regret: Admit: **I AM SORRY.**
2. Accepting Responsibility: Admit: **I WAS WRONG**
3. Making Restitution: Ask: How can I **MAKE** things **RIGHT?**
4. Genuinely Repenting: Clearly state: I **WILL NOT** do **THAT AGAIN.**
5. Requesting Forgiveness: Ask: Will you please **FORGIVE ME?**

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS?

- You want the relationship to be **RESTORED.**
- You realize you did **SOMETHING WRONG.**

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS?

- Fear of not being **IN CONTROL** of the situation
- Fear of **REJECTION**
- Fear of **FAILURE.**

WHY IS IT HARD TO EXTEND FORGIVENESS TO THOSE WHO HURT YOU?

- Forgiveness is **COSTLY.**
- It sometimes requires the forgiver to give up their pursuit for **JUSTICE.**
- The forgiver may need to live with long-lasting **CONSEQUENCES.**