

FOR FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

A changed life

Dr. Alan Loy McGinnis writes of the following experience:

I talked with a young man who . . . had a chip on his shoulder. “I could never get along with my bosses,” he said, “and I especially despised my foreman. He seemed to have it in for me, and I was itching for revenge. But since I was now trying to be a Christian, I decided to start praying every day. I prayed for my family, and I prayed for my neighbors, and then I gritted my teeth and prayed for the foreman. And do you know, when I started doing that, something happened to that guy! It wasn’t but a few weeks until he had changed so, and now we’re the best of friends.

“Of course,” he smiled, “I guess I was the one who changed most.”

— from *The Friendship Factor*,
by Alan Loy McGinnis, Augsburg Pub.

How much do you know about . . .

PARDON

Select the best answer:

- In effect, pardon is _____.
a. holding a grudge; b. letting go;
c. forgetting; d. meaningless
- When we forgive as Jesus forgave us, we _____.
a. lose out; b. cave in;
c. obey Him; d. never forget
- Forgiving removes the drive for _____.
a. excellence; b. significance
c. fulfillment; d. revenge

Answers on other side.



- RESPECT
- ENCOURAGEMENT
- LISTENING
- APPRECIATION
- TRUST
- INTEGRITY
- ORDER
- NURTURE
- SYNERGY
- HOPE
- IDEALS
- PARDON

12 WAYS TO LOVE IN RELATIONSHIP

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Purpose: to help followers of Christ obey His command, recorded in John 13:34: “**Love one another.**”

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PARDON

FORGIVENESS AND RELEASE

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

— Colossians 3:13

Pardon is forgiveness of an offense. It provides the offender with release from penalty; it provides the one granting pardon with release from bitterness. Pardon helps meet our need for *forgiveness*.

Pardon!

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A PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for the pardon you have mercifully and graciously given me. Please help me to tell others the Good News of the pardon You offer. Please help me to mercifully and graciously pardon those who commit offenses against me.

In Your Name, Amen.

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Consider these verses . . .

Nehemiah 9:17

Psalms 51:1-3

Matthew 6:12-15

Matthew 18:21-22

Colossians 3:13

Consider these questions . . .

Have you ever pardoned someone? What happened to the person? What happened to you?

How does pardon help build a relationship?

What are some of the benefits of pardoning and being pardoned?

What could you do to better practice forgiveness?

What *will* you do?

Answers to quiz on side 1:

- b
- c
- d

Good to forget – Best to forgive!

— Robert Browning

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