



# CENTRAL SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST

working and worshipping together to serve the Lord



*"Jesus answered and said to her,  
'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst  
again, but whoever drinks of the water that I  
shall give him will become in him a fountain of  
of water springing up into everlasting life.'" (John 4:13, 14)*

## WE MUST FORGIVE AS JESUS DID... AND OFTEN!

There are not many subjects made plainer in the Scriptures than that of our forgiveness of our brethren.

***"To what extent must I forgive?"*** the question is asked; "Even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colossians 3:13). Christ is so forgiving that He forgave His enemies, even dying for them (Romans 5:8). In fact, He said concerning those who crucified Him, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." There is nothing a brother could do against me that could be worse than what I have done in sinning against God. And if Jesus could forgive me, I must forgive others.

***"How often must I forgive my brother?"*** Jesus Himself gave the answer to that question when He told Peter, "Up to seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:22). He even said that "if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive Him." The true forgiver will not keep a ledger of past wrongs suffered, but will be inclined to forgive even the repeated offender (1 Corinthians 13:5).

***"What will happen if I do not forgive?"*** Jesus lets us know that our refusal to forgive betrays how ungrateful we are for His forgiving us. And we have the Lord's assurance: "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses" (Matthew 18:21-35).

--Mike Noble