

Forgiveness Gives Life
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In John, chapter 10:10, Jesus says, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly!" Christianity is bigger than a religion, it's reality, it's life. When we think of Jesus giving us life, it's easy to think of it in terms of resurrection and healing. Jesus has conquered death and gives us eternal life. But how does forgiveness fit in? What does that have to do with life? Imagine, or maybe you don't have to, burying someone you love. You are separated by death. You carry a bit of death with you and it makes life ugly. If that person came back, your life would be restored. We look forward to that in the resurrection on the last day! Yet there are other ways people can die in our life. When we hurt them and they leave, or when they hurt us and we leave. When we sin against one another, we kill relationships. How beautiful to see a lost son come back or two friends put the past behind them. Forgiveness does this. It's not abstract! It is like raising the dead. When you forgive someone you remove their guilt and that wall that separated you. In Christ we are forgiven! He welcomes us back into a relationship with God and one another. Forgiveness resurrects dead relationships! That's what we are called to do. Forgiveness gives life. We have been given complete pardon and welcomed back home with a party. Who has died to you and needs to hear you say, "Don't be afraid. You are forgiven!"