



Questions for Church Evaluation

Christians tend to think that they are practicing forgiveness just because they are Christians. Leaders can think that their church or organization is a *community of forgiveness* just because it is populated by Christians. But Christians must learn to develop a lifestyle of forgiveness. It does not happen automatically. And when the majority of people in a church or Christian organization do not have a lifestyle of authentic forgiveness, then that church is not yet an effective community of forgiveness.

The following questions are for leadership consideration and discussion. They are designed to help you evaluate the condition of your church or organization in regards to the practice of forgiveness among your people. Remember, groups do not practice forgiveness. Individuals do. You may also want to print, copy and distribute the “Questions for Self-evaluation” and “Identifying Your Personal Substitute for Forgiveness” documents to a representative group within your church asking them to give you feedback.

Are we a community of forgiveness?	Yes or No?
Our people work to restore broken relationships.	_____
Our people are free from anger.	_____
Our people <i>feel</i> loved by God.	_____
Our people do not practice self-condemnation.	_____
Our people eagerly welcome others who are different from themselves.	_____
Our people empathize with hurting people, including offenders.	_____
Our people practice church discipline when necessary without feeling guilty.	_____
Our people do not withdraw from each other when conflicts arise.	_____
Our people are becoming emotionally healthy.	_____
Our people do not bring up past sins and failures to manipulate others.	_____
Our people can disagree agreeably in real love.	_____
Our people refuse gossip.	_____
Our people work to appropriately restore long-damaged relationships.	_____
Our people know how to receive God’s comfort in their pain.	_____

Our people actively love their enemies. _____

Our people are becoming increasing free from self-destructive behaviors. _____

Our people are quick to develop honest, loving, practical relationships. _____

Our people help each other to receive God's forgiveness. _____

Our people help each other to forgive other people _____

Our people help each other to ask others for forgiveness _____

Our people have dealt with our church's history with real forgiveness. _____

We actively train people to develop a lifestyle of forgiveness. _____

We regularly hear about receiving forgiveness, forgiving others and
asking others to forgive us from the pulpit. _____

When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we emphasize both receiving
God's forgiveness and forgiving others because of the Cross. _____

We reach out to our community with opportunities that would help
people to learn how to forgive those who have hurt them. _____