

In the Lord's Prayer. Asking God to forgive our trespasses is **vertical**. Forgiving those who trespass against us, that's **horizontal**. It may or may not be something you have ever thought about.

Matthew 6:9-15 NASB1995. [9] "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. [10] Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread. [12] **And forgive us our debts**(VERTICAL = MAN TO GOD), **as we also have forgiven our debtors.** (HORIZONTAL = MAN TO MAN) [13] And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]" [14] For if you forgive others for their transgressions(HORIZONTAL), your heavenly Father will also forgive you(VERTICAL). [15] But if you do not forgive others(HORIZONTAL), then your father will not forgive your transgressions(VERTICAL).

It is clearly always a sin to not forgive another person for a trespass, but is it a sin to not ask God to forgive and not repay them for sinning against you?

What I mean is illustrated in the verses below where Paul, Stephen and Jesus ask God (VERTICAL) to forgive the offenders:

2 Timothy 4:16 NASB1995. [16] At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; **may it not be counted against them.**

Acts 7:59-60 NASB1995. [59] They went on stoning **Stephen** as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" [60] Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, **"Lord, do not hold this sin against them!"** Having said this, he fell asleep.

Luke 23:34 NASB1995[34] But **Jesus** was saying, **"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."** And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

Below is a verse where the Apostle Paul is not asking God to forgive Alexander the coppersmith for the trespass.

2 Timothy 4:14 NASB1995. [14] Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; **the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.**

Romans 12:19 NASB1995. [19] Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, **"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord**

If you don't ask God to forgive the person who wronged you God does judge and repay

Below is a verse pertaining to murdered saints in heaven asking for vengeance. Since they are in heaven, where there is no sin, asking for God's vengeance cannot be a sin.

Revelation 6:10 NASB1995. [10] and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Jesus also says:

John 20:23 NASB1995. [23] If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained." (This is VERTICAL and is where the catholic confessional comes from where a priest forgives someone's sins on behalf of God)

It appears that after you have forgiven a person for their trespass, it's your decision if you want to ask God to forgive or repay them.

I personally always ask God to forgive the trespasser because they don't really know what they're doing. Also because that's the way I want to be treated. If i accidentally step on someone's toes I don't want an individual asking God to send down a lightning bolt.

Luke 9:54-56 NASB1995. [54] When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" [55] But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; [56] **for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.**"] **And they went on to another village.**

Also God's heart is that he doesn't want to bring judgement and destruction for sin if possible. He tries to get people to pray for revival so people will turn from their wicked ways so he won't have to judge. Sometimes he will send a preacher like Jonah so people will repent and He doesn't have to rain down fire and brimstone. Let's examine some verses below to understand **God's heart and intent regarding judgment:**

Ezekiel 22:30 NASB1995 [30] **I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.**

(Clearly God does not want to destroy, but if He cannot find someone to pray for revival so that a city or person will turn from their wicked ways His Holy nature will force Him to punish sin)

Jeremiah 27:18 AMPC[18] **But if they are true prophets and if the word of the Lord is really spoken by them, let them now make intercession to the Lord of hosts,** that the vessels which are [still] left in the house of the Lord, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon.

(If a person is really hearing from God he will pray for people)

1 Samuel 12:23 NASB1995 [23] **Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you;** but I will instruct you in the good and right way.

(It is a sin against God to not pray for people. God is not willing that any should perish)

Job 42:10 NASB1995. [10] The Lord restored the fortunes of Job **when he prayed for his friends,** and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold.

(praying for people is what we should all be doing)

We should never want to see a city or someone destroyed like Jonah did. He didn't have the heart of God for Nineveh. Judgment might have to happen but we must always be fervently interceding in hopes there will be repentance so God's judgment can be averted.

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