

Needless to say, I was offended by the letter that student wrote to me, but because of the rule of forgiveness in Christ's Kingdom, I had to forgive that student, <sup>that is, I had to</sup> ~~and~~ treat him just as though that letter had not been written.

Now we will have offenses committed against us, and sometimes tensions will arise from those offenses that will be so great that it will seem like we can cut them with a knife, but because of the rule of forgiveness in Christ's Kingdom, we are to forgive the ones who commit those offenses against us, that is, we are to treat them on a personal level just as though those offenses had not been committed. It is our duty to do it.

Fourth, the manner of forgiveness.

We are to be sincere in our forgiveness.

In verse 35 of this passage we read, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye, from your hearts, forgive not everyone his brother his trespasses."

Here Jesus makes the manner of forgiveness very clear, for He says we are to forgive from our hearts. This means our forgiveness is to be sincere. But sometimes our forgiveness isn't sincere, for sometimes we say we have forgiven the one who offended us, but inwardly we haven't forgiven that person. If we do that, we haven't forgiven that person in the manner in which Jesus says we are to forgive him, for Jesus says our forgiveness is to be sincere.

Once there was an elderly woman. She had a daughter and her daughter had a girlfriend. All three of these women were Christians. One day the daughter's girlfriend wrote the daughter a letter in which she made an indiscreet statement concerning the daughter's mother. Somehow the