



## **The Power of Forgiveness Pt. 2**

**Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor**

**Sunday Sermon – 7/20/2025**

**Matthew 6:12-15 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors...14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

The word forgive is taken from the Greek word “Aphiemi” which means “to send forth or away, let go from oneself”.

The word debts or debtors is from the Greek word “opheilēma”; to owe. A debt that is owed and strictly due. Also, an offense, a trespass, or a sin that requires restitution or reimbursement.

Anytime a sin occurs, there is a debt to be paid.

**Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Anytime a sin occurs, God takes it personally.

**Psalms 51:4: "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight."**

### **Forgiveness is a Two-Part Process**

When you wrong someone, you should acknowledge your wrongdoing and express your remorse to the person you offended. You should also seek forgiveness from God for the sin you committed.

Forgiving others is one way you show your love to God and to others.

**1 John 4:20-21 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.**

### ***Reconciliation***

After we forgive, understanding the importance of restoring that relationship is essential. Seeking forgiveness from the person you have wronged is a step toward reconciliation.

Having an offense between two believers can hinder the Effectiveness of your offering.

**Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**

This is not just about monetary offerings, but about all that you do that you want God to give you credit for.



**Colossians 3:16-17** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

We will give an account daily, for all we do.

**Romans 14:12-13** So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

### **We are Commanded to Forgive!**

It's essential to understand that forgiving others is a command from God, not just a suggestion. This means we don't have to wait until we feel ready to forgive; it is an act of obedience to God's Word.

Taking that first step to forgive someone or to seek forgiveness can be truly transformative. It helps us release the heaviness of unforgiveness in our hearts, allowing Joy, peace, and healing to be restored.

So, unforgiveness does not impact our justification (our right-standing with God), but it can influence our sanctification (our spiritual growth, renewing of the mind, and fellowship with God).

### ***The Born-Again Believer's Motive for Forgiveness***

**Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. **5:1** Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

Our motivation for the believer forgiving others should stem from a deep appreciation for the boundless forgiveness that Jesus Christ has extended to us.

Forgiving others demonstrates our desire to emulate Christ. **“Therefore be imitators of God”**

Forgiving others when you don't want to or feel like it is not being fake. You are conveying **“not my will but your will be done Lord”**

Initiating forgiveness is the first step in eliminating the internal toxins that result from unforgiveness

**Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV):** "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

When you recognize an offense between yourself and another person, don't hesitate. Take the initiative to seek reconciliation so that your prayers aren't hindered.

We must put on (embody) the qualities listed in verse 12 to fulfill what God asks of us in verse 13.



**Colossians 3:12-13 (Message Bible) "So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, and discipline".**

By embracing these attributes, it will be much easier for us to take the steps toward reconciliation.

**13 "Be even-tempered, content with second place, and quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as swiftly and completely as the Master forgave you."**

*This is the area where I believe people often get confused. We should always be quick to ask for forgiveness and to forgive, but sometimes it takes time to fully start the process of reconciliation. This is because we may need to embody more of Christ's characteristics to enable true reconciliation. Reconciliation must come from the heart, and we should allow the Holy Spirit to help shape our hearts so that reconciliation can happen. But we must initiate the desire to reconcile. We should ask God to help us demonstrate our love for Him by expressing it to others, which involves showing the fruit of forgiveness.*

**Luke 6:27-29: "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."**

### ***The Concept of Reciprocity through Forgiveness***

**Matthew 6:14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."**

The concept of reciprocity suggests that what you do for others, God will do for you in return.

**Ephesians 6:8, "Knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free."**

It's not about our eternal Existence, it's about getting rid of the hindrances that will keep our prayers from being answered here on this earth.

**1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

Notice that this verse is not talking about your position in Christ, but rather about the condition of your soul.

**Philippians 2:12-13 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;**

**"Working out"** salvation means actively cooperating with God's work within us, allowing Him to transform our thoughts, desires, and actions.

**In conclusion:** Forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts you can give to yourself and others. Forgiveness is a vital aspect of spiritual growth, reflecting our understanding of God's divine grace and unconditional love. Forgiveness releases us from the burdens of resentment, allowing our hearts to heal and inviting God's peace and joy into our lives.