

# FORGIVENESS & THE GOSPEL

**Matthew 6:9-15, 18:21-35**

- It is not possible to receive forgiveness from God while simultaneously withholding forgiveness from others.
- If we experience the Gospel, the Gospel will flow into our relationships with people.

## I. THE CHAIN EFFECT OF FORGIVENESS

- Receiving forgiveness from God is inextricably tied to understanding the greatness of our debt of sin.
- The realization of our debt of sin and our inability to ever repay brings us to the humble receiving of forgiveness through the Cross.
- That same humility expresses itself in forgiving those who have sinned against us. **Colossians 3:12-14**
- The proud heart does not receive forgiveness even as it does not give forgiveness
- The proud underestimate their debt to God and overestimate other's debt to them
- The humble giving of forgiveness to those who sin against us is a powerful communication of the Gospel **Acts 7:55-60** - The martyrdom of Stephen, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

## II. UNFORGIVENESS REALLY DOES LEAD TO TORMENT

**Matthew 18:34-35**

- Unresolved offenses result in bitterness that imprisons us in new relationships – we are "tortured". The wounds of past unforgiven offenses poison every new relationship.
- Unforgiveness gives place for the Devil to work in our lives. **Ephesians 4:26-27**
- Unforgiveness is even linked by scientists to medical conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, etc

## III. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER

- Our relationship with God is woven in to the fabric of our relationship with each other. We cannot break one thread without breaking the other.  
**1 Corinthians 12:12-26** – the body of Christ, one member cannot say of another "I do not need you."
- To withhold forgiveness is to say "I have no need of you"  
**Matthew 22:35-40** - "The Great Commandment." **1 John 4:19-21**

## IV. UNDERSTANDING WHAT FORGIVENESS IS AND WHAT IT ISN'T

- "Forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me." -- Dr. Archibald Hart
- Forgiveness is the cancelling of a debt
- Forgiveness is not the absence of anger against sin ("Be angry and do not sin" – Eph 4:26)
- Forgiveness does not mean you pretend the offense didn't really hurt or wasn't really costly
- Forgiveness does not mean you trust the offender – forgiveness is freely given, but trust is earned.

*"When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them."* - **Thomas Watson** (1620-1686), Body of Divinity

- A fruit of forgiveness is that the memory of the offense loses its "power" in my life today.
- Forgiveness means I give the judgment of the offense over to the Lord to deal with

**Romans 12:14-21** – "never avenge yourselves, but **leave it to the wrath of God**, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

# NOTES:

## Recommended Resources

**Radical** by David Platt

A great book on living the life of real, radical discipleship. Currently, our Steering Team, Community Group Leaders, and

**The Gospel Transformation Bible**

Published by Crossway, this bible is not *so much* a study bible, but a bible with commentary to help you see the bigger picture of Christ and His Gospel in and through all the Scriptures.

# ARE YOU NEW HERE?

## WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **build friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

## GIVING

**Gospel-centered generosity** should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at [lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give](http://lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give) or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

## KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6<sup>th</sup> grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit [lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids](http://lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids) to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

## JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at [hbarnes5@yahoo.com](mailto:hbarnes5@yahoo.com) or **John Hawthorne** at [hawthorne-john@hotmail.com](mailto:hawthorne-john@hotmail.com)

## SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

## EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

## SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

## CONTACT US:

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Twitter: @YourLifeMission  
[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 6:9-15** and **Matthew 18:21-35**. What stuck out to you the most in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Colossians 3:12-14**. How does receiving God's forgiveness for all of your past, present and future sins tie directly with forgiving others? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Ephesians 4:26-27**. How could NOT forgiving others hurt you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Luke 23:32-34**. What is happening in these verses? Who is forgiving who?

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Read **Romans 5:6-10**, **1 John 4:19-21** and **Romans 12:14-21**. Why is it important for you to remember that Jesus forgave His enemies in the moment they murdered Him? How does His example motivate you to forgive? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Matthew 22:35-40**. Can you be both loving and unforgiving? How are they tied together? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is stopping you from forgiving others? Bitterness? Hurt? Fear? Hard heart? Do you want revenge? What part of the Gospel are you not believing? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is stopping you from forgiving yourself? Guilt and shame? Self-worship? Do you doubt or are you forgetting the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

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Re-read the Thomas Watson quote that Pastor Ron Ohst read on Sunday along with the verses next to each statement. "When we strive against all thoughts of revenge (**Romans 12:19**); when we will not do our enemies mischief (**1 Thessalonians 5:15**), but wish well to them (**Luke 6:28**), grieve at their calamities (**Proverbs 24:17**), pray for them (**Matthew 5:44**), seek reconciliation with them (**Romans 12:18**), and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them." (**Exodus 23:4**). Which action step(s) do you need to take in order to forgive others?

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Spend some time praying for one another, confessing sin if you have not been forgiving to others, maybe someone specifically. Thank God the Father that He sent His Son to die and shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sin. Ask the Holy Spirit to help empower you and forgive like our loving, gracious Father forgives.