

Forgiving Others as God Has Forgiven Us

Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32

*. . . if one has a complaint against another,
forgiving each other; as the Lord has
forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
(Colossians 3:13)*

*... if one has a complaint against another,
forgiving each other; as the Lord has
forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
(Colossians 3:13)*

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ
forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)*

I. How Does God Forgive?

I. How Does God Forgive?

A. God's forgiveness is gracious, but costly.

I. How Does God Forgive?

A. God's forgiveness is gracious, but costly.

1. God's forgiveness is gracious.

1. God's forgiveness is gracious.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Eph.2:8).

1. God's forgiveness is gracious.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Rom.3:23-24).

2. God's forgiveness is very costly.

2. God's forgiveness is very costly.

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 Jn.4:10)

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 Jn.4:10)

“propitiation” or “atoning sacrifice” in NIV.

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 Jn.4:10)

“propitiation” or “atoning sacrifice” in NIV.

It means that Jesus experienced the full wrath of God as He hung on the cross –
for our sins.

B. God's forgiveness is conditional – we must repent of our sin and trust Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
(Mark 1:14-15)

*I have declared to both Jews and Greeks
that they must turn to God in repentance
and have faith in our Lord Jesus.
(Acts 20:21)*

“Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.”

- Wayne Grudem

C. God's forgiveness includes a commitment that He will no longer hold our sins against us.

C. God's forgiveness includes a commitment that He will no longer hold our sins against us.

He expresses it in terms of *not remembering our sins*.

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Heb.8:12)

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Heb.8:12)

“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (Heb.10:17, quoting Jeremiah 31:34)

D. God's forgiveness results in His reconciling us to Himself.

D. God's forgiveness results in His reconciling us to Himself.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. (1 John 3:1a)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn.1:9)

II. How are We to Forgive?

II. How are We to Forgive?

A. We are to forgive graciously, just as God forgave us.

II. How are We to Forgive?

A. We are to forgive graciously, just as God forgave us.

B. We are to forgive those who express repentance.

Jesus taught the necessity of repentance as a prerequisite to forgiveness.

Jesus taught the necessity of repentance as a prerequisite to forgiveness.

Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

(Luke 17:3-4)

Paul describes how we must respond to those who wrong us:

Paul describes how we must respond to those who wrong us:

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom.12:17-21)

Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.

(2 Tim.4:13-15)

II. How are We to Forgive?

- A. We are to forgive graciously, just as God forgave us.
- B. We are to forgive those who express repentance.
- C. We are to forgive and no longer hold the person's sin or wrongdoing against them.

II. How are We to Forgive?

- A. We are to forgive graciously, just as God forgave us.
- B. We are to forgive those who express repentance.
- C. We are to forgive and no longer hold the person's sin or wrongdoing against them.
- D. We are to forgive and be reconciled to the offender.

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins.*

(1 Peter 4:8)