



**Sunday October 25, 2020**  
**THE CALL TO FORGIVE- II**

This is part 2 of our sermon title on the call to forgive.

Part I focussed on what it means to forgive by helping us see how forgiveness is vital to a believer's life and discovering that extending the mercy we receive from God is the true nature of forgiveness.

The second part of the series aims to answer the question: How do I forgive?

This is a question that we are often faced with specially when we know we are called to forgive but find it hard because of the confusion we have in this process. Many people are caught up in anger, resentment and bitterness towards those who have caused them pain.

The apostle Paul SHOWS US A MODEL OF FORGIVENESS- that we are to forgive "as" God in Christ forgave us.

**Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you**

This highlights 2 things

- We are to forgive BECAUSE God forgave us.
- We are also to forgive AS OR LIKE OR IN THE SAME MANNER that He forgave us.

**1 Peter 2:21 – 23 to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

Jesus is a **perfect example** on forgiveness.

**HOW DID GOD IN CHRIST FORGIVE US?**

**1. By taking the painful consequences of our sin**

Jesus took responsibility for our sins

by taking our curse (Galatians 3:13- he became a curse for us) God placed our curse on Him.

He took our penalty/ our consequences (II Corinthians 5:21)

He took the punishment for our wrongdoing

**Isaiah 53:4,5 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.**

Application: This means that even for us It is deciding to live with the painful consequences of another person's sin. The choices others make could affect us as we live with the consequences of their wrong choices making us feel bitter and angry towards them.



Bearing these consequences is in no way easy and can make us weary but knowing that God gives us grace and mercy in our time of need must help us forgive like Jesus did and be patient as we bear the consequences of another's choices or sin against us.

## **2. By entrusting the offense into the hands of God**

**1 Peter 2: 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

Jesus went through a lot at the hands of those who reviled him (Matthew 27). They humiliated him by publicly stripping Him of his clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him. They braided a crown of thorns and put it on His head, placed a reed in His hand as if a sceptre and mocked and taunted Him.

They spat on Him and struck Him on the head. Spitting was considered to be the strongest thing you could do to show utter disgust, repugnance, dislike, or hatred for someone.

Jesus was taken away to be crucified. Crucifixion was a method of capital punishment and was performed to dissuade the witnesses from perpetrating similar crimes – they were left on display to face shame and utter disgrace. This kind of a punishment apart from being an execution also was a humiliation because it made the condemned person as vulnerable as possible.

The response we see Jesus had to this shame and pain as seen in **Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."**

Application: Revenge and retaliation is the usual response given during a hardship. Taking our own revenge, or striking back, is a demonstration that we don't believe that God is just, or that God can be trusted to judge righteously.

Eg. Revenge can be active where there is overt and direct retaliation to the offense of the offender. Passive revenge can be seen for example in troubled couples where partners begin to attack the in laws, siblings of the spouse as a way to get back at them. Or at a workplace, where in revenge you withhold some generosity like a promotion / a raise that is in your power to release in order to pay back.

We are called to calmly commit our cause to God.

**Psalm 37: 5-6 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.**

## **3. By not holding us accountable for our sins**

**Colossians 2: 13-14 Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.**

By what Jesus did for us on the cross He cancelled the debt. This means that we are no longer held liable for our sins or in any way made to pay for them. He nailed our sin debt on the cross. Scripture shows us what He does with our sin

God puts our sin out of sight by covering it

**Psalm 32: 1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.**



God does not charge us with our sin

**Psalm 32:2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not [b]impute iniquity.**

God casts our sins behind his back

**Isaiah 38: 17 But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back. There is one thing that God always does with repentant sin. He removes it out of His presence**

God remembers our sin no more

**Isaiah 43: 25 "I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.**

God does not bring our sin back to remembrance- he chooses not to hold these sins against us again and again. Once forgotten we may be able to recall the offense but we no longer choose to dwell in the pain of the offense.

Application: In the same way, cancelling the debt of one who offends us is to make a choice not to bring it up to the offender, to others, or to ourselves. We resolve never to throw the sin back into the face of the one who committed it. We make a choice not to use it to manipulate and shame them. We also commit to not bring it up to others in an attempt to justify ourselves or to undermine their reputation. This also can mean that we choose not to bring it up to ourselves as grounds for self-pity or to justify our resentment of the person who hurt us.

#### **4. By showing love and mercy**

**Leviticus 19:17 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.**

**Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled**

Offenses and hurts caused towards us brings us bitterness, hurt, anger and resentment. We harbor grudges inside us. Roots of bitterness can start springing up within us. As noted earlier, the true nature of forgiveness is mercy. God's mercy is the motivation for showing mercy to others. Most of our bitterness and anger towards others is rooted in an inability to be amazed at Christ's mercy and love for us in our sin.

Application: We refuse to let the anger, resentment and pain strengthen a plan to exact payment from that person, whatever the payment may be- emotional, relational, physical, or financial. It also means we refuse to use the past suffering to justify present sin of keeping the bitterness and resentment.

Eg. Joseph- after the death of Jacob, his brothers send messengers to Joseph fearing his probable anger and bitterness towards all the evil that they did to him. Joseph could have exacted payment for the evil his brother did him but through his response we see that he extended love and mercy instead of retaliation and revenge.



## 5. By doing good rather than evil

**Romans 12:17-21** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Jesus showed God's indiscriminating love to all people and he taught the disciples the real meaning of God's command of loving enemies as their neighbours. As his disciples we must reflect His character and exhibit this same indiscriminating love.

**1 Peter 3: 8-9** Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

Peter once again reiterates this by saying that we are called to return a blessing to those who have been unkind so that we will be positioned to in turn obtain a blessing from the Lord.

Application: This may entail doing simple acts of kindness- by overcoming unrighteousness with righteousness- doing things in love.

## 6. By restoring the relationship that sin destroyed

**2 Corinthians 5: 18- 21** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

When God forgave us our sins He also restored our relationship with Him so that our fellowship can once again be renewed. The forgiveness that Christ showed pursues relationship and restoration. Christ's forgiveness is not satisfied by just cancelling the debt but it longs to love again.

How does this apply to us?

The Bible commands that we must always forgive people their wrongs against us no matter how great the offense. God's desire is for Christians to experience both full forgiveness and full reconciliation.

**NOTE:** However, some situations may not allow for reconciliation to occur. Other situations can lead to a full restoration where the relationship is exactly how it was before the offense occurred.

**RECONCILIATION DIFFERS FROM FORGIVENESS** and is conditioned on the attitude and action of the offender. While its aim is restoration of a broken relationship, those who commit significant and repeated offenses must be willing to recognize that reconciliation is a process. Reconciliation must involve the wilful choice of two people or parties.



## **Romans 12: 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men**

Two things to remember:

First, the offending person may refuse and resist any efforts on their part to reconcile. It is your responsibility is to do whatever you can within your power to be at peace. If they refuse to be at peace with you, you are released.

Second, when the reconciliation or restoration is successful, the relationship may not fully return to what it was before the offense was committed. Trust in another person take a long time to fully recover from a serious sin, and sometimes never fully recover at all.

When it comes to reconciliation, we are to do what will bring the most glory to God. always forgive while reconciling to the fullest degree possible.

We are called to live by a higher standard than what the world expects—a standard that is impossible for us to attain by our own efforts. It's only through the supernatural power of God's Spirit that His people can truly love and forgive those who have offended them.



### **LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE**



**Sunday October 25, 2020  
THE CALL TO FORGIVE- II**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

#### **Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.



### **LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 John 4:20-21, Psalm 32:3, Proverbs 12:5, Mark 11:25-26, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, Matthew 6:14-15, Micah 7:18, Luke 6:36-37, Colossians 3: 13, Matthew 18: 21-35, James 2:13*

### **INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1. How have you forgiven someone who has offended you in the past? What from the message has convicted you of forgiving as Christ has forgiven you?
2. Scripture shows us that when God forgives He does not hold us accountable for our sins. Yet when we forgive we tend to throw the sin back to the offender or use it to manipulate or shame them or even justify our resentment to the person. What does it practically mean for us to not remember the sin someone committed against us?
3. Romans 12:18 encourages us to live peaceably with all men as far as it depends on us. What makes it difficult/challenging for you to reconcile with someone who has hurt you?

### **FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

### **ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>