

A Godly Heart Forgives #2

Text : **Colossians 2: 13-14 , 3: 1-15**

S#1.

A. In our last lesson we looked at the parable of the unforgiving servant.

1. There is a lot more that we need to learn from it, but we'll come back to that.
2. In the previous lesson we saw :
 - a. Our discussion is about servants (Christians) relating to their King (God).
 - b. The Christian's relationship with God (w/ the King) is directly contingent upon his relationship with his fellow servants.

S#2.

Mark 12: 29-33 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; **30** and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' **31** The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

- c. The Christian is forgiven immeasurably more than he can ever forgive others.
 - 1) Billions of \$ -vs- only pocket change
 - 2) Thousands of lifetimes -vs- mere days
- d. It is essential that we understand that our own salvation depends upon our forgiving other people "**from the heart.**"

"Being forgiven necessitates being forgiving."
3. We also observed that God anticipates that our receiving grace will change our hearts toward others.

B. With this lesson, we will pick up where we left off last time.

1. Though the King did not specifically command that the servant to forgive others, He clearly expected it of him. (**He consider it to be a moral imperative.**)

S#3.

Matt. 18: 33 – 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

2. The free and generous grace the King had extended was revoked.

S#4.

Matt. 18: 34 – And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

3. Jesus then clearly stated that this is the lesson the parable has for us.

S#5.

- a. **Matt. 18: 35** – My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.
- b. This is a clear statement which requires no interpretation.
- c. If we do not forgive others, our forgiveness will be revoked.

C. Forgiving others is not normal human behavior.**S#6.**

1. It requires a radical change of heart.

Rom. 12: 1-2 **Therefore** I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.** **2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

S#7.

2. Notice the fundamentals of the required transformation.
 - a. It is motivated by the “**mercies of God.**”
 - b. It requires a surrendering of one’s life to God; “**present your bodies .. a sacrifice.**”
 - c. It requires a separation from social norms; “**do not be conformed to this world.**”

S#8.**D. *We want to see the motivation for change and some consequences of failure.*****I. Christians have more to be thankful for than anyone else.****S#9.****A. In our text Paul reminds us of what has been done for us.**

1. All of our sins have been forgiven.

S#10.

Col. 2: 13 – **When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,**

- a. We were separated from God with no way to be reconciled. (“**dead**”)
- b. Jesus became the way by which we could be reconciled. (“**alive**”)
- c. When the sin which separated us was removed, we were reconciled. (“**together**”)
2. All of our sins were nailed to the cross and paid for by Jesus. (***propitiated***)

Col. 2: 14 – **having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

S#11.

- a. The “**certificate of debt**” refers to the Roman practice of posting charges at the door of a prisoner’s cell. (***gave name and listed all charges***)
- b. When their sentence was completed the charge sheet was removed. The magistrate would sign it and write, “**It is finished**’ meaning **Paid in full.**”

B. You and I owed a sin debt that is impossible for a mere human to pay.**S#12.**

1. Every sin we have committed is a death penalty charge against us.
2. Jesus took ALL of them off our account ... SO WE MUST DO LIKEWISE

S#13.

II. As a result of what was done for us, we must change our mindset toward others.

A. Though forgiving is against nature, we're not victims of our own nature; **S#14.** the scriptures tell us that we can change our hearts, minds, character, habits.

1. **"be transformed."**

- a. *metamorphoo* means "to change into another form"
- b. Transformation is not something that happens miraculously.
- c. If we just set and wait to be transformed, it will never happen.

2. **"by the renewing of your mind."**

- a. **"renewing"** (*anakainosis*) **1** ... , renovation, complete change for the better.
- b. This renewing is a voluntary action which is contrary to our nature.
- c. It is another way of indicating a complete **repentance**. (*Define repentance*)

Acts 26: 20 – but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also **S#15.**
at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and
even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God,
performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

B. This transformation of our minds is an act of human will. **S#16.**

- 1. The Christian changes the focus of his mental efforts, of his desires, etc.
 - a. **Col. 3: 2-3** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
 - b. This is a command of God, not a goal for the future. *We must surrender self*
- 2. The transformation of values is a distinguishing marking between the saved and lost.
 - a. **Rom. 8: 6-8** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit **S#17**
is life and peace, **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward
God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even
able to do so, **8** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
 - b. When we have the same values, goals and ambitions as our neighbors, we are lost.

C. This transformation process includes eliminating evil thoughts and desires. **S#18.**

- 1. We must eliminate personal fleshly desires. (*The fruit of earthbound thinking*)
- 2. **Col. 3: 5** – Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to **S#19.**
immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts
to idolatry.
 - a. Ambition, fleshly desires and passions can never be satisfied.
 - b. There are not enough things to satisfy one's desire to possess.

S#20.

D. This transformation process includes changing the way we view and treat others.

1. This transformation requires that we first purge negative attitudes toward others.
 - a. **Col. 3: 8** – But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. S#21.
 - b. **anger** (*orge*) any violent emotion , temper, indignation, desire to hurt or punish.
 - c. **wrath** (*thumos*) fierceness, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again.
 - d. **malice** (*kakia*) malignity, malice, ill-will, desire to injure
 - e. **slander** (*blasphemia*) detraction, speech injurious to another's good name.
 - f. **abusive speech** (*aischrologia*) dirty talk, foul speaking, low and obscene speech.
2. Love is that which motivates the transformation. S#22.
 - a. **Col. 3: 14** – Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
 - b. This love is a decision and a commitment.
 - c. It is not the result of emotion, but it fosters feelings of goodwill.
3. Love purges the evil and replaces it with positive, uplifting attitudes in one's heart.
 - a. **I Cor. 13: 4-7** Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. S#23.
 - b. Thus, one cannot love a person and act negatively toward him. S#24.
 - c. **Col. 3: 12b-13** So ... put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

E. Those who love cannot be unforgiving.

S#25.

1. Love does not exploit the sins of others to satisfy its desire for justice.

I Pet. 4: 8 – Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

 - a. “Above all,” Love is the very highest priority ? Why ?
 - b. Love prevents negative reactions to the sins of others. *gossip, slander, judgment*
 - c. Love seeks the best for its object so it covers over the sins of others.
 - d. **Matt. 18: 15-20** ... The restoration procedure is to keep sin from destroying.
2. **Gen. 9: 20-27** ... *Ham told of Noah's nakedness, but two sons covered him.*

3. Love does not keep a record of wrongs so they are never used to hurt the sinner.

S#26.

F. It was love that motivated God to sacrifice His Only Begotten Son for our sin.

John 3: 16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

S#27.

III. Forgiveness does not come naturally; we must overcome nature and culture.

A. The natural man sees the world through self.

S#28.

1. Every aspect of life is evaluated by the standard of self-interest.
 - a. How does this benefit me ?
 - b. How does this make me look ?
2. When we are offended, pride becomes a force to be reckoned with.
 - a. It is what comes natural to mankind.
 - b. It has its root in primitive survival instincts. (*Still effects foreign policy*)

B. One author wrote :

1. We are most like beasts when we kill.
2. We are most like men when we judge.
3. We are most like God when we forgive.

C. We must overcome our culture which elevates vindictiveness.

1. 3 out of every 4 attorneys on planet earth are in America.
2. Angry people are encouraged to seek satisfaction for perceived wrongs.
3. This attitude eats away at a person like a malignant cancer. (*Spiritually deadly*)

D. The thirst for vengeance can never be satisfied.

1. After retaliation one is left feeling it was not enough.
2. The hurt is still there so the hatred deepens and eats away at the one carrying it.
- * 3. One need only look at the divorce courts to see this played out.

E. Only forgiveness can purge one's heart of the pain.

1. The hatred and resentment felt for another is not felt by them no matter what you do.
2. One can only feel peace within when he purges the resentment by forgiving wrongs.

CONCLUSION :

A. Forgiveness doesn't just happen, it requires a decision followed by action. S#29.

1. Some just let offenses ride until they are covered over by more current events.
2. The longer resentment remains and the deeper it is buried the harder it is to remove.

B. The scriptures teach us to be proactive in cleansing our hearts of all bitterness.

1. **Heb. 12: 14-15** Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. **15** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; **S#30.**
2. If not dealt with, offenses lie like seeds ready to grow when conditions are right.

C. Forgiveness is a command of God which we “must” obey. (*not an ideal*) S#31.

Col. 3: 13 – bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

D. It is a command that has eternal consequences if not obeyed. S#32.

1. The scriptures clearly states that one cannot be forgiven if he does not forgive.
2. **Matt. 6: 14-15** For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. **S#33.**
 - a. These are words spoken and taught by the Lord Jesus Himself.
 - b. They are clear and unambiguous; **only those who forgive can be forgiven.**

*** 3. NO ONE can go to Heaven without their sins forgiven. S#34.**
Therefore, no one can go to Heaven without forgiving others.

E. Though essential, to truly forgive from one's heart is difficult. S#35.

In future lessons we will look at some more practical aspects such as :

1. More clearly define forgiveness.
2. Discuss the mechanics of how we can forgive.

INVITATION :**S#36.**

Jesus is ready to forgive you.

Lesson Text :**Colossians 2: 13-14**

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **14** having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Colossians 3: 1-15

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, **10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him — **11** *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. **14** Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.