

Sermon Title: Forgiving Community

Sermon Series: Gospel Directed Community

Scripture: Ephesians 4:32

Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



- You can't forgive yourself.
- It's impossible to forgive yourself.
- Forgiveness takes place in a relationship with someone else.
- You can decide not to accept or receive the forgiveness that's been offered to you.

God always offers forgiveness.

Condemnation

Ignore

Blame

Rationalization

Victimization

God's Design

Brokenness

The Gospel

Repent and Believe

Restore and _____

New Creation

No FEAR

1 John 4:18 ESV

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

No CONDEMNATION

Romans 8:1-2 ESV

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

No INSECURITY

Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

No SHAME

Romans 10:11 ESV

11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

Ephesians 4:32 ESV

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Because Jesus forgives, you must _____ and live _____.

Christ is both our model and means to a forgiving community.

Ephesians 1:7 ESV

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Common Myths About Forgiving Others:

1. I don't need to forgive to have good relationships.

2. I don't need to forgive if they don't apologize or repent.

“Forgiveness is a vertical commitment, that is followed by a horizontal transaction. Both aspects of forgiveness are essential” in this order. — Paul Tripp

Mark 11:25 ESV

25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

3. Forgiving means forgetting.

4. Forgiveness is the same thing as reconciliation.

5. Forgiveness erases consequences.

Galatians 6:7 ESV

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

6. I forgive to feel better.

“If we demand the benefits of forgiveness before we take the risk of forgiveness, we become trapped at the crucial point.” — Brad Hambrick

F-O-R-G-I-V-E

F - Forgiveness is from God

Ephesians 4:32 ESV

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

O - Others-focused

Ephesians 4:31-32 ESV

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

R - _____ first

Psalms 139:23-24 NIV

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

G - _____-rooted

Romans 5:6-11 ESV

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

I - _____ is best

V - _____ forgiveness before reconciliation.

Mark 11:25 ESV

25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

Vertical Forgiveness - releasing the offense against you to God.

Romans 12:18-21 ESV

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 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.” 20 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.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

E - Expect forgiveness to be costly

Isaiah 53:2-7 ESV

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

If you repent and believe:

You are justified

You are now a person of faith

You are adopted into God's family

You are filled with the Holy Spirit

Your death will not be an end to your life

You are a New You

Because Jesus forgives, you must forgive and live forgiven.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Discussion Questions:

Pray together.

Can you think of a time when you didn't receive forgiveness?

What are some obstacles to forgiving others? What may keep people from living forgiven?

What is the cost of forgiveness?

Read Ephesians 4:32. What does this verse tell you about the relationship between the Gospel and forgiveness?

Ephesians 4:32 ESV

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

In the message, Pastor Mike shared several "forgiveness myths." With which of these myths did you most agree? Disagree?

Read Romans 5:6-11. What does this passage tell you about forgiveness?

Romans 5:6-11 ESV

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What is the role of personal repentance when living forgiven? How about when forgiving others?

How can our group pray for you?

Pray for one another.