

## Forgive as the Lord Forgave You

### Colossians 3:9-13 CSB

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your[c] Creator. 11 In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.

### Heb 10:14-18. CSB

For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified. 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. For after he says:

16 This is the covenant I will make with them  
after those days,

the Lord says,

I will put my laws on their hearts  
and write them on their minds,

17 and I will never again remember

their sins and their lawless acts.,

18 Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

### Luke 17:3-4 CSB

"Be on your guard. If your brother sins,[b] rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and comes back to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

### **Case Study #1 – Elmer's Investment "Opportunity"**

Elmer has been coming to Clarence's church for years and he has formed good relationships within the church. 15 years ago Elmer convinced Clarence and a number of other members to invest in an "opportunity," three families, including Clarence's, lost a significant amount of money.

The pastor ended up having a meeting with Elmer and the families in which Elmer ended up apologizing, admitting he wasn't sure of the investment and didn't want to put up any of his own money. Elmer over the next year gave regular payments to try and repay what he took. Clarence ended up forgiving the debt before it was fully paid as he felt Elmer's repentance was genuine.

Just last Sunday a newer couple and Clarence were talking and they mentioned that they had just given Elmer some money for an investment. Clarence immediately felt hurt and angry. He feels bad about his feelings because he forgave Elmer years ago, or so he thought. The pastor who dealt with this originally passed away a few years ago.

**How would you counsel Clarence on his feelings and what he should do?**

## **Case Study #2 – Blanche's Gossip**

Dorothy has just gone through a divorce. She has been meeting with her Pastor and his wife regularly throughout the situation. The fact is that her husband ended up having an affair and he was the one to ask for the divorce. Her Church is not aware of the details as Dorothy is not ready to share about it.

Because of all this Dorothy missed the latest women's event. Dorothy was having dinner with a church friend who ended up asking if it were true that her husband is now living with a woman half his age. It turned out that someone at the event asked Blanche, one of the leaders of the Women's Ministry, where Dorothy was and Blanche ended up sharing a lot of information, half of which was untrue. Dorothy feeling hurt let the pastor know what happened and asked for a refund on her spot at the upcoming retreat as she had decided she would not go.

Blanche came to Dorothy and apologized saying that she was wrong and realizes now that she was gossiping. Blanche also asked that Dorothy still come to the upcoming retreat as she would hate for her mistake to keep Dorothy from what will be a great experience.

Dorothy is not sure if Blanche's apology is sincere and right now she doesn't want to be apart of anything that Blanche is leading.

**How would you counsel Dorothy on her feelings and what she should do? How would you Counsel Blanche?**

### **Case Study #3 – Feeling Unsafe**

About a year ago Ethel started coming to New Relevant Inspired Church (NRIC). Last week a new visitor came to the church, Wilfred. Ethel went to the pastor later that week and told him that Wilfred was at her old church and that she had to go to the pastor because he was harrasing her. She says that he would say and text her sexually inappropriate things even after she had texted him to stop, none of it reached the level of a crime. Her old pastor met with them both and Wilfred apologized, he removed her number from his phone, and the pastor had Wilfred step down from his position as an elder in the church. The church was a large church and the pastor told Wilfred to stay away from Ethel for the foreseeable future. Ethel admits that she formally forgave Wilfred and that he left her alone for the next few weeks but she ultimately decided to leave her church.

The pastor of NRIC called Ethel's old pastor to ask about the situation. Her old pastor confirmed the story but also made it known that for the last year Wilfred has been seeing a Christian Counselor to deal with this sin.

That Sunday Wilfred returned to NRIC and the pastor spoke to him. Wilfred was invited by his coworker to come to this church as he was looking for a more charismatic church. He says that he only returned because he enjoyed it so much, he says that he didn't even realize that Ethel was at this church (which definitely could be true). He also states that if she forgave him, and he did all the steps of repentance put forth by their old pastor, than why shouldn't he be able to attend NRIC?

**What should the Pastor do? How does he handle all sides of this case of year old sin, forgiveness, and acts of repentance?**