

Forgiveness in the Church

Matthew 18:21-35

Main Point:

Jesus has graciously paid for all your sins in full; therefore, always forgive your brethren as God has forgiven you.

1. As a sinner, you owe a great debt to God.

2. Since you cannot pay this debt on your own, you deserve eternal punishment in hell.

3. Out of sheer grace, Jesus paid your debt in full upon the cross.

4. No matter how many times your brothers sin against you, always forgive them.

5. Forgive your brothers in the same manner as God has forgiven you.

Galatians 3:10, 13 ¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." ... ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree") (NKJV)

Romans 6:23a ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death ... (NKJV)

2 Thessalonians 1:9 ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (NKJV)

Colossians 2:13-14 ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (NKJV)

Sinclair Ferguson "The two are inseparably linked, for the man who knows his debt before God and turns to him for forgiveness is the recipient of such grace that he cannot but share it with others."

R.C. Sproul "This does not mean that Jesus was setting a limit of 490 offenses. Essentially, Jesus was saying there is to be no limit on forgiveness ... Forgiveness is to be a way of life for Christians."

Ephesians 4:31-32 ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJV)

Isaiah 43:25 ²⁵ "I, *even* I, *am* He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. (NKJV)

Psalms 103:10 ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (ESV)

Jay Adams "To 'not remember' is simply a graphic way of saying, 'I will not bring up these matters to you or others in the future. I will bury them and not exhume the bones to beat you over the head with them. I will never use the sins against you.'"