

# TOWARD A DESCRIPTION OF FORGIVENESS

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Some folks have it much worse – the person(s) who hurt them are dead / unavailable!

**How do I forgive? How can I reconcile? Can I reconcile?**

**1<sup>st</sup> objection: They don't deserve to be forgiven / to receive forgiveness!**

## 1. Forgiveness is a gift!

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving (χαρίζόμενοι) one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven (ἐχαρίσατο) you.**

**Even as: you and I are to forgive even as God has forgiven us!**

**Does God require us to earn forgiveness? Does God require us to deserve it? Does God require us to be good and do good before he forgives us?**

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, **for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.**

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

### Thoughts:

- God demands **nothing!**
- God give us a **gift!**
- God gives us a **grace gift!**

χάρις = grace

χαρίζομαι = freely give & forgive

Very similar to the English word forgive which contains give in the word!

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **freely give (χαρίσεται)** us all things?

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are **freely given (χαρισθέντα)** to us of God.

- God **freely gives us forgiveness**
- As we must do also → to forgive!

**2<sup>nd</sup> objection: They haven't changed / they are still doing it!**

## 2. Forgiveness is a giving-up!

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving (χαρίζόμενοι) one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven (ἐχαρίσατο) you.**

**So God forgives us – what does that mean?**

**He gives us a gift!**

**He also gives up the right to punish us!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> objection: They haven't been punished! They deserve to be punished!**

## 3. Forgiveness is a giving-over!

This can be so real – painfully real!

Someone has harmed you – deeply, intentionally, repeatedly....

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving (χαρίζόμενοι) one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven (ἐχαρίσατο) you.**

### We get caught in a bind:

- Evil has been **done**
- **Real evil**

- **Evil that ripples**
- **To forgive...seems to allow that evil to continue...like it is no big deal!**

**Genesis 50:19** And Joseph said unto them, **Fear not: for am I in the place of God?**

**Genesis 50:20** But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

**Romans 12:17** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. **Romans 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. **Romans 12:19** Dearly beloved, **avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.**

**1 Samuel 26:9** And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless? **1 Samuel 26:10** David said furthermore, **As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.** **1 Samuel 26:11** The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

- **This “giving-over” allows God to do His work**

**As He will**

**When He will**

**If He so wills**

**4<sup>th</sup> objection: I just don't understand! How could they do that?**

#### **4. Forgiveness is an understanding!**

**Ephesians 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving (γαριζόμενοι) one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven (ἐγαρίσατο) you.**

**“To understand all, is to forgive all!”** (Not 100% true but is so very helpful!)

**Luke 23:34** Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

**Psalms 78:37** For their heart was not right with him, Neither were they stedfast in his covenant.

**Psalms 78:38** But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: Yea, many a time turned he his anger away, And did not stir up all his wrath. **Psalms 78:39** **For he remembered that they were but flesh; A wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.**

**Psalms 103:13** Like as a father pitieth his children, So the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

**Psalms 103:14** **For he knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.**

**5<sup>th</sup> objection: I forgive but I never forget!**

#### **5. Forgiveness is a promise!**

**Ephesians 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving (γαριζόμενοι) one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven (ἐγαρίσατο) you.**

**This is obviously a problem – how can I forget?**

**Jeremiah 31:31** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, That I will make a new covenant With the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: **Jeremiah 31:32** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers In the day that I took them by the hand To bring them out of the land of Egypt; Which my covenant they brake, Although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: **Jeremiah 31:33** But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, And write it in their hearts; And will be their God, And they shall be my people. **Jeremiah 31:34** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: For they shall all know me, From the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: **For I will forgive their iniquity, And I will remember their sin no more.**

**Hebrews 8:10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: **Hebrews 8:11** And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. **Hebrews 8:12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, **and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

**Hebrews 8:13** In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

**Hebrews 10:15** Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

**Hebrews 10:16** This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; **Hebrews 10:17** **And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

<b>A promise:</b>		
<b>Not to think about it</b>	<b>Not to talk about it</b>	<b>Not to act upon it</b>