



Forgiven That We Might Forgive

PART 1

Therapeutic Forgiveness

- ▶ Lewis Smead: “ceasing to feel resentment or bitterness.”
 - ▶ Feelings
 - ▶ Private or individual
 - ▶ Motivated by self interest
 - ▶ Subjective

The Biblical Facets of Forgiveness

- ▶ The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness
- ▶ The Biblical Pattern of Forgiveness
- ▶ The Biblical Priority of Forgiveness
- ▶ The Biblical Paradigm of Forgiveness
- ▶ The Biblical Practice of Forgiveness
- ▶ The Biblical Power of Forgiveness

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Forgiveness does not mean that we mistake **evil for good**
- ▶ **Isaiah 5:20:** “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Forgiveness does not mean the absence of **righteous anger**
 - ▶ the “judicial sentiment”
 - ▶ **Ephesians 4:26**: “Be angry, and yet do not sin”

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Forgiveness does not mean the absence of righteous anger
- ▶ **Ephesians 4:31-32:** “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, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”



The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Bitterness

- ▶ You see everything done by that person as tainted with evil against you
- ▶ You will or hope for someone else's harm or distress

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

Righteous Anger	Bitterness
Anger at Sin	Anger at Sin
Hoping for repentance for offender	Hoping for ill-will for offender

God has Righteous Anger but never Bitterness:

Psalm 7:11: God is angry with the wicked everyday.

2 Peter 3:9: God is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ 2 Devastating Effects of Bitterness:
 - ▶ Bitterness can **imprison** you

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

▶ 2 Devastating Effects of Bitterness:

▶ Bitterness can imprison you

▶ Bitterness can be a **barrier** to grace

▶ **Hebrews 12:15:** “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.”

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Forgiveness does not mean that **consequences** are erased

THE STRUCTURE OF THE FORMER PROPHETS

Conquest of the Land	The Establishment of the Dynasty of David over the Land		Exile from the Land
David of Rise	Climax: 2 Samuel 7 The Davidic Covenant		The Fall of David
Josh 1:1 - Judg 16:31	Judg 17:1 -----	-----1 Kgs 11:43	1 Kgs 12:1 - 2 Kgs 25:30

1406 BC ----- 845 years ----- 561 BC
 (David's Kingship 1010-970 BC)

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Forgiveness does not mean that consequences are erased
- ▶ **Forgiveness:**
 - ▶ **2 Samuel 12:13:** "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die."
- ▶ **Consequences:**
 - ▶ **2 Samuel 12:10-14:** "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife . . . Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your companion, and he shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun. However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

THE STRUCTURE OF THE FORMER PROPHETS

Conquest of the Land	The Establishment of the Dynasty of David over the Land		Exile from the Land
David of Rise	Climax: 2 Samuel 7 The Davidic Covenant David, King over All		The Fall of David: Consequences of David's Sin with Bathsheba
Josh 1:1 - Judg 16:31	Judg 17:1 -----	-----1 Kgs 11:43	1 Kgs 12:1 - 2 Kgs 25:30

1406 BC ----- 845 years ----- 561 BC
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The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Forgiveness does not mean exacting **penance** for the offense.

The Biblical Principles of Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT

- ▶ Forgiveness does not mean automatic **trust**
- ▶ **Keller:** “‘I forgive you’ does not mean ‘I trust you.’ Some people think they haven’t reconciled until they can completely trust the person who did the wrong. That is not the case. Forgiveness means a willingness to try to reestablish trust, but that reestablishment is always a process. The speed and degree of this restoration entail the re-creation of trust, and that takes time, depending on the nature and severity of the offenses involved. Until a person shows evidence of true change, we should not trust him or her. To immediately give one’s trust to a person with sinful habits could actually be enabling him to sin. Trust must be restored, and the speed at which this occurs depends on the behavior.”
- ▶ **Thomas Watson:** “We are not bound to trust an enemy; but we are bound to forgive him.”

What Biblical Forgiveness is

- ▶ The Greek word “Forgive” can be translated: to let go, to send away, to cancel, remit, pardon
- ▶ The primary idea of forgiveness: **Pardon**

What Biblical Forgiveness is

- ▶ The Primary Image of Forgiveness: **Debt**
- ▶ **Matthew 6:12**: ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.’”

What Biblical Forgiveness is

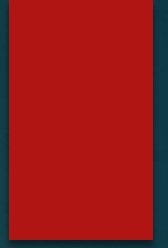
Primary Idea:
Pardon

Primary Image:
Debt

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Forgiveness:
Pardon for Debt

What Biblical Forgiveness is



- ▶ **Keller defines Biblical forgiveness as:** “Forgiveness means giving up the right to seek repayment from the one who harmed you. To forgive is to cancel a debt by paying it or absorbing it yourself. But it must be recognized that forgiveness is a form of voluntary suffering. If someone wrongs you, there are only two options: (1) you make them suffer, or (2) you refuse revenge and forgive them and then you suffer.”
- ▶ Someone always pays every debt
- ▶ There is never forgiveness without suffering

The Biblical Pattern of Forgiveness

- ▶ **Colossians 3:12-13:** 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.
- ▶ Not will power but identity
- ▶ Position affects Practice; who you are affects what you do
- ▶ **Borgman:** “Forgiveness is an act of the will to do for others what God has done for us.”

The Privileged Position of the Forgiven Believer: “As the Lord forgave you”

- ▶ God takes the **initiative** to forgive
 - ▶ **Colossians 3:12**: “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved.”

The Privileged Position of the Forgiven Believer: “As the Lord forgave you”

- ▶ God grants forgiveness graciously
- ▶ God grants forgiveness as a **promise**
 - ▶ **Jeremiah 31:34**: “I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more.”
- ▶ God grants forgiveness fully, in a **judicial** sense
 - ▶ **Colossians 2:13** says: “He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.”

The Privileged Position of the Forgiven Believer: “As the Lord forgave you”

- ▶ God forgives continually, in a **familial** sense
 - ▶ Matthew 6:12: “Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors”
 - ▶ Context: Matthew 6:9: “Our Father who is in heaven.”
 - ▶ The Lord’s prayer: Addressing God as Father not as judge

The Privileged Position of the Forgiven Believer: “As the Lord forgave you”

- ▶ God forgives continually, in a familial sense
 - ▶ **Thomas Watson:** Question: Is God angry with his pardoned ones?
 - ▶ Answer: Though a child of God, after pardon, may incur his fatherly displeasure, yet his judicial wrath is removed. Though he may lay on the rod, yet he has taken away the curse. Correction may befall the saints, but not destruction.

God's Forgiveness of Us

Judicial	Parental
God as Judge	God as Father
Rebuke as Condemnation	Rebuke as Correction
Sense of Guilt producing fear of judgment	Sense of guilt producing remorse over offending the Father
Confession of an enemy surrendering	Confession of a child submitting
Forgiveness lifts the threat of hell and establishes a new relationship with God	Forgiveness lifts threat of temporal punishment and improves previous relationship with God

The Practical Response of the Forgiven Believer: “so also should you.”

- ▶ We must take the initiative to forgive
 - ▶ **Matthew 5:23–24:** “Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”
 - ▶ **Matthew 18:15:** “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”
 - ▶ Commonality: it is always your initiative

The Practical Response of the Forgiven Believer: “so also should you.”

- ▶ We must grant forgiveness graciously
- ▶ We must grant forgiveness as a promise of pardon
 - ▶ “I will not remind you of your sin.”
 - ▶ "I will not mention it to anyone else.“
 - ▶ "I will not allow my mind to dwell on it."

The Practical Response of the Forgiven Believer: “so also should you.”

- ▶ We must grant forgiveness fully
- ▶ We must grant forgiveness continually
 - ▶ **Matthew 18:21**: “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

A Comparison

Therapeutic Forgiveness	Biblical Forgiveness
Subjective (a feeling of offense)	Objective (a debt that is owed)
Feeling	Commitment to pardon, an act of the will
Private, individual	Happens between two parties
Motivated by self-interest	Motivated by love for neighbor and love for God
Justice is not critical	Justice is the basis of forgiveness

