

C – Forgiveness: “Forgiving love is the...pursuit of the offender by the offended for the sake of restored relationship [w/ God, self and others].” Dan Allender

Why does the Bible have SO MANY Metaphors for FORGIVENESS?

Expiation – removal, getting rid of sin and guilt; focus – the offender, the offence

Micah 7:18-19

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, **pardoning iniquity** and **passing over transgression**

for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does **not retain** his **anger** forever,
because he **delights in steadfast love**.

¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us;
he will **tread our iniquities underfoot**.

You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

Psalm 103

⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ He will **not** always **chide**,
nor will he **keep his anger** forever.

¹⁰ He does **not deal with us according to our sins**,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ *For* as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so **great is his steadfast love** toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he **remove our transgressions from us**.

Lev 16:²⁰ “And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall **present the live goat**. ²¹ And Aaron shall **lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins**. And he shall **put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness** by the hand of a man who is in readiness. ²² *The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area*, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

Psalm 32

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is **covered**.

² Blessed is the man **against whom the LORD does not count (reckon) iniquity**,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Isaiah 38:17

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness;
but **in love** you have **delivered my life from the pit of destruction**,
for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

Isaiah 43:25 “I, I am he who **blots out your transgressions** for my own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 44:22 **I have blotted out your transgressions** like a cloud
and **your sins** like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Jer 31:34 I will **forgive** their iniquity, and I will **remember their sin no more**.”

John 1:29 (John) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who **takes away the sin of the world!**”

1 John 3:5 You know that **he appeared in order to take away sins**, and in him there is no sin.
(cf. Heb 10:4, 11 neither animal blood nor priests can ‘take away sins’)

How? How does a holy and righteous God of justice send all our sin away, cover it, blot it out, refuse to reckon it to us, hold back from requiring a just payment, & separate all of it from us?

Forgiveness:
Dignity, Depravity and GRACE

Propitiation – fixing the relationship by justly addressing the offended party, paying for the offense; focus – the offended

Isaiah 53:4-6

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...

Rom 3:23-25 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in **Christ Jesus**, ²⁵ **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood**, to be received by faith. This was **to show God's righteousness**, *because* in his divine forbearance **he had passed over former sins**.

2 Cor 5:19 in *Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them*, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation... ²¹ For our sake **he made him to be sin who knew no sin**, so that **in him** we might become the righteousness of God.

Gal 3:13 **Christ redeemed us** from the curse of the law **by becoming a curse for us**—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

1 Pet 2:24 **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree...**

1 Pet 3:18 For **Christ** also **suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous**, that he might bring us to God...

1 John 2:1-2a My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous**. ² **He is the propitiation for our sins**

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that **he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins**. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Good News – This REALITY IS CHANGING YOU:

1) Since you have been set free from **condemnation**, you are beginning to exp **genuine freedom**.
One great **freedom** is a new **devotion** to One Love and One Law Giver.
This leads to **freedom of conscience**.
Since there is only one to please – the One who purchased us in costly love, we are set free from people pleasing, bellying up to the bar of “approval ratings.”

Forgiveness:
Dignity, Depravity and GRACE

2) Since Christ has been condemned in your place, you are becoming increasingly **transparent, willing and able to confess** your sin and rebellion (rather than mistakes), **to own and hate your sin.**

1 Pet 2:24-25 He himself **bore our sins in his body on the tree**, that we might **die to sin and live to righteousness**. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For *you were straying* like sheep, but have now *returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls*.

Matt 5 ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away... ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away... **NO CODDLING SIN! Take strong measures.**

3) Since Christ has paid all your debts in full, you are becoming **generous and hospitable.**

Zech 3:9b-10 “I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰ In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, **every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.**”

4) Since your sins have been **expiated** due to Jesus Christ **bearing** all *your sin, guilt, shame, punishment, chastisement and indebtedness*, **becoming a propitiatory sacrifice** becoming “**guilty**” and therefore a “**curse**” for you, you are entirely and undeniably forgiven. The debts have been liquidated; **Jesus** has **suffered as your substitute**. Therefore, **you are becoming one who extends forgiveness**. This means, like God in Christ Jesus, you:

- a) **Condemn sin** (always your own first, but here we mean those who *actually* sin against you). We claim that the offender HAS OFFENDED US.
- b) **Release the offending party** from ‘paying for’ the offense. That’s right, you don’t make them pay. You absorb it, rather than extract it. You release the debt. You forgive, *first* in private before the Lord. You let it go – In Jesus!
- c) **Move toward the offending party for their sake.** This means you do not brood. This means you do not gossip – even in the form of a ‘prayer request.’ Even before you confront them – in your spirit before the Lord you are aiming toward reconciliation, a healed relationship (think of the whole OT).
- d) **Confront them to see them released** from the guilt and any harmful thought, practice or way (deep heart commitment) and **restored to a healed relationship**. You confront them **for their sake** as **an act of worship** of the One who took your place. You confront them to spare them further injury, to honor the dignity God has given you, and to celebrate life *with* them (honoring the relationship).

Forgiveness:
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Notice **what instructions** lie next to **which parable!**

Matt 18:¹⁵ **“If your brother sins against you,** go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone... ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you... ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector... ²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but **seventy-seven times.**

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘*Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.*’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, **the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.** ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘*Have patience with me, and I will pay you.*’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘*You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.* ³³ ***And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?***’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.**”

Jesus teaches us that **confrontation with the goal of reconciliation** can only succeed for those who **remember how much they have been forgiven!**

If we forget the grounds of forgiveness, we can “forget” any hope of genuine reconciliation. If you have forgotten the forgiving grace you’ve received, and this means if you are failing to relate to others in light of God’s costly-to-him but free-to-you forgiving grace, you won’t have true, lasting relationships.

Talking and listening to confession, repentance and confrontation:

Talk like a beloved, accepted and forgiven child.

Listen like a rescued, forgiven, dearly loved child.

How to confront another sinner...especially your spouse!

¹“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³***Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?*** ⁴How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, ***first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye*** (Matthew 7:1-5).