

“Receiving and Granting Forgiveness” (Matthew 6:12, 14, 15)  
GCC, 7/30/23, Morning worship

**Introduction:** A good litmus test to gauge spiritual maturity is to honestly answer the question “Do I forgive as I have been forgiven?”

- A. Forgiveness is “Mirroring the Gospel”
- B. Forgiveness is the perpetual obligation of the Christian (Matthew 6:14–15)
- C. The *much* forgiven forgive *much*
- D. Love and Humility Govern the Granting of Forgiveness

*How do we tune up and balance the gospel mirror of forgiveness so that it moves in both directions (i.e., receiving AND granting)?*

- I. Those who mirror gospel forgiveness desire and pray for forgiveness of specific sins
  - A. We need to be asking for forgiveness every day
  - B. We need to be confessing particular sins, not just general sins
  - C. Why do we have to ask forgiveness everyday if Christ has already forgiven us ALL of our sins on the cross 2,000 years ago?
  
- II. Those who mirror gospel forgiveness will seek a **transaction** of forgiveness but if that is not possible, they will maintain a **disposition** of forgiveness
  - A. What is a *transaction* of forgiveness?
  - B. What is a disposition of forgiveness?
    - 1. A disposition of forgiveness is graciously frank not fake (Lev 19:16–18)
    - 2. Gracious frankness calls it like it is and hopes for reconciliation (Prov 27:5, 6; Prov 26:24–26)
  - C. Biblical Basis for Disposition of Forgiveness (Rom 5:8)
  - D. A disposition of forgiveness is just as “freeing” for you as it is for those who offend you
  - E. In both transactions and dispositions of forgiveness, remember that the standard you use shall be used on you (Matt 7:1–5)
  
- III. Those who mirror gospel forgiveness are **not better** than their Lord, but should seek to **imitate** their Lord (John 21:15–19)

**Questions for application:**

- 1. Is there disparity between my reception of forgiveness and granting of forgiveness? Why?
- 2. Have I refused to speak with someone who has offended me even though they wish to reconcile? Why?
- 3. Am I still cold, aloof, and distant from someone with whom I’ve reconciled? Does this mirror God’s character toward me after forgiving my sins?
- 4. Am I genuinely frank or graciously fake with people who have offended me? Why?
- 5. Do I expect a perfect apology before I will forgive? Am I applying a fair criterion of judgment here (see Matt 7:1–5)?
- 6. What needs to be shorn up in my forgiveness that will make the gospel look brilliant and me less bitter?