

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Good morning. We are continuing our series this morning. We are going to look at the booklet of, why must we forgive. This has been quite a good booklet for me. And my wife and family to study and certainly commend it to you.

It's one of those that you can keep going back to throughout your life and time. It does have a lot of good nuggets in it. Very helpful in a lot of ways. So let us open with the word of prayer. Father, we do. Thank you for bringing us out of the world and drawing us here this day to consider Your Word.

What you teach in the Bible to hear your word preached, to praise you to sing your songs and to glorify and worship you while we thank you for this blessing that you have given us. We ask that you would Open our hearts and our minds that we may consider the truth that you have set before us follow.

We do pray that you would forgive us our debts as we forgive others, even as you taught us in Jesus name, Amen.

So this book starts off talking about Jesus teaching his disciples to pray. Well, I just prayed for give us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Matthew 6:12 Paul urged followers of Christ to forgive one another even as Christ. Forgave them Colossians 3:13. So Christ gives us a mandate and a model for forgiveness.

But what is forgiveness and how do we do it? I think I'm pretty certain that everyone is struggled with that, at various times, throughout our lives, through our, even as children, a certainly, remember, some times, when My mom, especially would sit me down to forgive my, mostly my brother.

And I have to tell you now, I think he probably had to forgive me more than I had. Then he had is something that's important for each one of us to consider and think about. So the first hearing is forgiveness received a foundation of forgiveness, Romans 6:1 and 2 says, shall we continue in sin that grace may abound, God forbid, what part does forgiveness play and our ongoing relationship with God Believer's sin.

Once acknowledged sin must be confessed 1st. John 1:9 says, if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Certainly familiar text with each. One of us. Also it does not need to be so familiar that we skip over it.

We're not thinking about it because that is what Christ has done to confess is to align ourselves with God to confess. Sin means we call our actions or inactions, exactly what it is sin. I think, especially in the culture that we find ourselves in sin, is glossed over so much that as Christians, certainly something we could should consider and meditate upon Psalms 32:12, and verse 5, say blessed, is he whose transgression is forgiven?

Whose sin is covered. Unless it is the demand to whom the Lord. Does not impute a nicoty. And in His Spirit there is no deceit. I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity. I have not

hidden. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

God covers, excuse me, our sin by reckoning. The debt God grants forgiveness. When we confess our sin, John tells us that God is faithful. And just to forgive us our sins. We understand faithful since God is true to his character and Word, but why just? The debt is paid.

God's justice has been satisfied. So, we'll ask anyone especially children. How is the debt paid? The debt for our sins is what I'm asking about. One. Have an answer. He's just like absolutely Jesus's blood. Here's life your own earth and death on the cross and rising again. So God's justice has been satisfied.

How is sin different for believers and unbelievers?

Forgiveness is bound up in Christ alone. So for believers, their guilt is removed. Unbelievers. Continue to accrue debt. That must be settled at the judgment seat of God. So we as believers confess, our sins as children who are Father, We cannot invite unbelievers to confess their sin without confessing the Christ who is the end of sin.

He wants us to forgive as we have been forgiven by Him as believers who have been forgiven, he calls us to reciprocate.

Forgiveness, reciprocated. And the flow of forgiveness. It's our next heading. We who have been forgiven? Much should always be prepared to forgive a little. Any offense will be little when compared to that for giving us by God. So my heavenly Father also will do to you. If each of you from his heart, there's not forgive his brother.

His trespasses Matthew 18:35, this point, he is not issuing a threat, but rather making a point, It is similar to his instruction in the prayer. He teaches the disciples back to forgive us our debts. As we forgive our debtors, Matthew 6:12. Charles Spurgeon says, unless you have forgiven others, you read your own death warrant.

When you repeat the Lord's Prayer. That's, that is sobering words.

This is not two minimize the horrors of abuse or trauma. It is saying His power is not outside the scope of the gospel, or the healing properties of God's grace. So what is forgiveness and how do we practice it?

Forgiveness, in action. First, we must let go fully dismiss. We tend to think that the person who wronged us is in our debt, a debt that we use, like a promissory note payable on demand. We can use it like a weapon. We can't just hold it for when we want to use it.

We must discard it completely, Again, difficult, easy to say difficult to do at times something we need to can continue to consider and seek the Lord in prayer over. So, therefore is the elect of God. Holy and beloved put on Tinder. Mercies kindness. Humility. Meekness long suffering, bearing with one, another and forgiving one.

Another If anyone has a complaint against another even as Christ. Forgave you? So you also must do but above all these things put on love which is the bond of perfection That is Colossians 3, 12 through 14.

In forgiving we give grace, We let the offense go not because of the offender or that he deserves it. But as an act of grace, The first step to granting forgiveness is to no longer hold the offense against the person who sinned against us. The second is to remember the sin?

No more. Notice that we did not say forget to sin, according to this booklet forgive and forget is not a biblical concept. We can't just flip a switch and forget but we can work at not remembering. That reminds me of several things. Pastor James has said from the pulpit over years.

This, it looks at it from a different angle and we can work at not remembering.

Isaiah 43:25 says, I even I and he who blots out your transgressions for my own namesake and I will not remember your sins.

So how can we work at not remembering First. No longer bring it up to the person, we forgave how easy that is to do to bring that sin back up. Play it like like a promise ordinary. I said just now we can also no longer bring it up to others and if we do what does that turn into?

That's that's gossip. We work hard at not doing that. And then last thing and maybe the most important is We no longer bring it up to ourselves. We don't dwell on it. We don't meditate on it, casting down arguments and every high thing that exhausts itself. Against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the immediate surprise.

Second Corinthians 10:5.

So by God's grace over time, the force of the offense will weaken and perhaps even die, maybe it can be forgotten but at least it can be recognized as dead. Psalm 32:1 through 2, says blessed. Is he who's transgression is forgiven? Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the demand to whom the Lord does not in future iniquity and in who spirit there is no deceit.

We cover the sin of those who send against us by the application of forgiveness in the exercise of love, where you laterally purpose, not to hold it against the offender, any longer, and to work at not remembering.

You all know that I'm, of course, 58 years old now. And I've been confronted with this over and throughout my life many times and You cannot not remember, if you do not have the great for the Lord to do it, Lord's grace is what allows us to do. There's, there's some certain sins that can be against us or our family, or children parents, and I can tell you that without the Lord's grace.

And that's recognizing His grace, we're not going to be able to pass that on and turn that into forgiveness. And again it is a work of not remembering. So, take heed to yourselves, If your brother sins against him against you, excuse me, rebuke him If he repents forgive him, and this is the hard part.

And if he sends against you seven times in a day and seven times in a day returns to you. Sing repent. You shall forgive him. That's Luke 17:3 and 4. Another if you really get down to applying that it's difficult to do without the grace of the Lord, we we cannot do it in our in and of ourselves and our Lord says, if he repent forgiving.

So it is necessary that we wait. Oh, let me ask this as a question. So is it necessary that we wait on an expression of repentance to grant forgiveness? That's a hard one. I see some hedge shaking. No, I did live through an instance one time where I have to confess to y'all that I struggled with that.

In one particular instance, in the church and over a period of time, the Lord gave me the grace to recognize that when forgiveness is not asked for when repentance is not presented, It's a

biblical principle to be able to forgive. So Jesus is teaching stresses that forgiveness is a reflex of grace received.

That's a really important thing. It should be a reflex of the graceish. You'll see His instruction is not conditional, forgiveness, but rather liberal grace. We are able to forgive unilaterally Without a response from the one who offended us. It is real forgiveness but it is lacking. It is not pursue.

It does not work to pursue any reconciliation But when this is not possible for whatever reason granting unilateral forgiveness helps us by not allowing roots of bitterness to spring up in our hearts. Pray that God would bring the healing that only He can accomplish just care. So I understand what I've read this book, by that The question talk about time.

Does God forgives us? If we don't repent, I don't understand. You know, we would have think we would say no. I mean, that's what I would say is, we don't forget this as we don't repent. So There was somebody that spoke on this recently and he I was there so I didn't disappear the whole thing but his faith was a little bit different than this man's.

And so anyway, I've just been thinking about that a lot. So you have somebody that's sent against you, you're you're ready to review, you want, you want to have the restoration but they don't, they don't come, they don't, you know, they just kind of ignore it, don't ignore you.

And it's and we have no problems call. That's why I'm gonna get some, maybe it's just selemented. But How do you, how do you handle that? All right. I think that Mr. Phil might help me out there. I I probably can't answer that as well in words. I do understand it and know it but I'll ask Mr.

Phil.

Restoration.

Restoration takes both sides.

Forgiveness can be unilateral is, maybe the other side will eventually happen. Maybe it happens quickly. And then you have happen slowly over seven times, 70 steps.

Forgiveness doesn't have to be transactional.

Some wonderful. When Here's the reciprocal, part over. That's,

Forgiveness is not trans Well forgiveness and then repentance of the other side. Just transaction. Put that doesn't of the eighth. The forgiveness that required even if repentance isn't happening. Otherwise you will continue to work that begins to often will festive. And when investors of calls for another round Goes against new here, that's one of the things that, that the book brought out and one of the things that I've experienced a time or two, you know, in this process.

And that is it turns into bitterness, doesn't it? And Yes, Pastor. The the problem is the word forgiveness can be used to refer to four different things Rolling between betterness, which is what we're talking about. Now restoration of relationship, restoration and privileges, it does not the same thing as restoration and relationship purposes.

Often have to be earned back as reliability as demonstrated and trustworthiness demonstrative And then relinquishing of penalties, which can only be done by proper authority. So it's important to know which of those four things you're talking about. When you ask them is

repentance necessary question, but it's not necessary for the relation between the internet's art.

There's a good book that deals with that sort of thing at like called Unpacking forgiveness. You can get it at Heritage books to use out that if this is something that you're dealing with and a recommend recommend that book, Let me ask you a question directly. Okay, so about the, that the thought occurred to me that our repentance is not the effectual, not the beginning of God's forget results.

God doesn't forgive us because we were attention. You might, that's true. He also has more. He also has an office obviously, that we do not have. Thus, when we would take it, it would be unrighteous of engines when he would take it. He would be right suspensions And so you can't give repentance to the one that you're that as well.

I thought, okay, okay, so that's wrong. You can't absolve penalty and the penalty are. So there's there's a lot there but the Lord being the initiator of all four because we you know, laterally toast to love this enemy. That is what is used in Scripture as the basis of our unilateral.

Giving of hears of the word. Forgiveness, number one, so relinquishing. A. So there is no room in believers to say No. There's, there's no, I just did forget to come and said, she saw me of course, but even even on a field on all right. Well, no, I'm you know.

Yeah, that's that's a real and that's easy in my heart. Always to the allotize, what my heart is unveiling, your animator willing to do, right? So it's important to think clearly through these things and to tell myself, no, you don't have a right to have to nurse this bitterness.

This utility is hard This hurt. You know, They hurt you and hurt and arm are real. But you don't have the right to nurse the feeling of her question, right? And you have recourse because you're a believer. Even if even if we're saying unilateral, it's never just you, you know?

And that's where the gym was talking about. The necessity of grace. That's why the unbeliever can't do this. What are they going to do with her? You know, there's no where to pick, I think. Okay. Knife so many times maybe not just nutrition community but it's large. Yes, that you have to release them from the obligation installed.

Forgive them, steal it. They have made restit that planes like, It's true. You can forgive a person there at Thief. Let's say and they haven't changed their activity. You may not treat them the same way. Still hidden that I've had people say, oh no, you got forgiveness and that means you resolved with the death date, you know.

Okay anymore. Thoughts on that yesterday, Davis has been saying that There is a sense in which we may absolve somebody of the bit as a result about the giving them about the giving them. It's just necessary and forces. For example, of somebody had been prepared to take somebody with a court that why not.

Wow. That I okay, you just stand. It's beautiful. You The other thing that I was

Yeah. Absolutely, as we can all tell. This is a very multifaceted issue and it is something that right that the Lord does give us instruction and and Scripture, and this book, really does help bring a lot of those things out for us to consider and, and gives us a nice tool to circle back to will

So, going back to the part about the root of bitterness that forgiveness helps us by not allowing the roots of bitterness to spring up in our hearts. I do think that's an important thing for us to consider. So we would pray that God would bring the healing that only He can accomplish.

We know we can't forgiveness is not an endpoint. This is some of the things we've just been talking about, but rather a pivot point. So it paves the way for something new. So the work of forgiveness when we grant forgiveness, we have not finished. Just entered a new phase forgiveness sits to stage for healing and rebuilding That rebuilding involves dealing with the sin in our own hearts.

How many times do we think of that? When we're considering that, I mean, we know our own hearts. I can't, I can't help, but obviously it's the work of the Spirit, but remember my own sin and typically it's more like the, the tree in my own eye. Me trying to help somebody pick out the little thing I can't see for the tree.

So, it is something that we have to consider.

So asking forgiveness is different from apologizing. Apologizing acts to dismiss agreements pursuing. Forgiveness sets us on a path for peace. Forgiveness takes work, cannot be flippant or perfunctory If it is. It's not forgiveness. It must be from the heart as our Lord emphasizes in Matthew. 18:35, So my heavenly Father also will do to you.

If each of you from your heart, does not forgive his brother. His trespasses Christ is our example. We are to forgive as we have been forgiven. Forgiveness is neither easy nor cheap. It comes at great cost and requires great. Purpose of Christ is our strength, Only in abiding in him.

Can we find healing and be instruments of healing Christ? Did our Lord, We are to follow His desire for our lives and not our own.

I'm considering stopping right here because to finish this up I'll have to really, we would go late if we were to give it good. Good consideration. So with the Austin's permission, if anyone has any more input, we can talk about it for a minute or two. And then, we will finish up next Lord's day if that's suitable with everyone.

Okay. Yes. Pastor One thing kind of related to this. Early on doing when we teach our children, how to resolve complex, We teach them how to go through macro 18th. And some reason, it gets stuck in every single one's mind and granted artists at sample size as a small, little Richard members for America.

Some reason gets stuck in every single one's mind. You've got a initiate, Matthew 18 in the moment. You're offended. But There are multiple scriptures, that describe the privilege that love has as covering an offense and their brother who is not caught in this sin, the way into voice in five into relation six talks about.

If it's not a potential pattern which you think is a neighbor to your brother's spiritually and not just harming your relationship but my harm him. You know, there are reasons why you wouldn't just cover over in love every time, but it is frequently possible. And the best choice that you can between you and God to just cover over the sin, and he's going scripture describes it as privilege and an honor, something that the strong can do.

So as you think about forgiving, I would recommend just for habit of art, tried to do the covering as often as possible. And that will give you some clarity for when relationship is being

harmed. And it becomes more necessary to the evac, where you genuinely concerned with spiritual condition of the brother and it becomes necessary to enter the international team.

And then in situations where you had been sinned against more more painfully, more deeply having built up the the habit of harm in the skill of heart. To forget really gives you a life out in was very important situation going here. If you're already holding a lot of bitterness and someone sticks, and I've been deep, That, that can you've already set yourself back before that started.

So, this just one piece of council. Obviously, mom and dad are still learning that too. Not just the kids, but that's kind of the next level as we. Create our children in their conflict, resolution that you don't actually have to have a conflict. Every time you're sending it and as you can imagine, if you got 10 in the house and you did have to have a conflict, every time, one sin against the other, then you're just spending your whole life in having been resolving conflicts.

That's not a great way to spend your life.

Very good. Well, thank you. We'll let us turn to the Lord in prayer. Father God, we do come before you this morning. As you have given us this lesson to humble our hearts, before you as we continue to seek to work out our sanctification, before you through forgiveness of our brothers sisters.

First follow, we thankful that you have given us time to share and consider to bring each one of us together and unity in these things through our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ, we pray in His name amen