

Introduction

- I. Because Christians are the most forgiven people, we should be the most forgiving.
- II. What the text emphasizes in the pattern - as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Peacemakers: (6)Forgiving, As Christ Forgives Us

- I. **What?** When there is conflict, the way to reconciliation is forgiveness.
 - A. Forgiveness is a decision and a promise that you will not hold sin against someone else.
 1. The pattern of true forgiveness is set by God Himself in Christ, as the text says.
 2. The four promises of forgiveness:
 - B. This decision to forgive is not cheap, but costly.
 1. Forgiveness is not cheap, but it is costly because when we sin we create a debt.
 2. So also for us, forgiveness is costly.
 - C. Forgiveness is a gracious activity.
 1. God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ is a gracious work of God.
 2. Those who know God's gracious forgiveness, will also forgive graciously.
 - II. **When?**
 - A. The Scriptures make clear that the promises of forgiveness are only given to those who confess their sins and ask to be forgiven for their sins.
 - B. The text emphasizes that forgiveness is an ongoing promise.
 - III. **How?**
 - A. We cannot forgive others in our own strength, but we need hearts transformed by God.
 - B. We may struggle with the remembrance of what others have done against us.