

BE THE CHURCH | BE FORGIVEN  
WAVE CHURCH SD | NOVEMBER 6, 2022

ONE OF THE GREATEST CALLINGS I WILL EVER

RECEIVE IS TO BE JESUS' CHURCH

BE INTENTIONAL  
BE HOSPITABLE  
BE FORGIVEN

A CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCH IS MARKED BY FORGIVENESS.

**Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

**FORGIVENESS** | the intentional and voluntary process  
by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings  
and attitude regarding an offense.

**Matthew 5:7 (ESV)** "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

**Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

BIBLICAL FORGIVENESS

CHOOSING TO GIVE TO OTHERS THE FORGIVENESS

GOD HAS GIVEN TO ME

HERE IS THE PROBLEM:

YOU CAN'T GIVE WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE

**Luke 23:34 (ESV)** And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

FORGIVENESS CAN REWRITE OUR FUTURE

**Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> 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?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."

**Genesis 4:23-24 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup> One day Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; listen to me, you wives of Lamech. I have killed a man who attacked me, a young man who wounded me. <sup>24</sup> If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times, then the one who kills me will be punished seventy-seven times!"

FORGIVENESS IS NOT ABOUT KEEPING SCORE,  
BUT ABOUT LOSING COUNT

**Matthew 18:23-27 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup> "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

JESUS' FORGIVENESS RELEASES US AS DEBTORS

**Matthew 18:28-30 (ESV)** <sup>28</sup> 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.' <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

JESUS' FORGIVENESS RELEASES US AS DEBT COLLECTORS

**Matthew 18:31-35 (ESV)** <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him,

*'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'*

### **MAKING FORGIVENESS A FAMILY VALUE**

- **PRAY WITH / FOR THOSE YOU'RE IN CONFLICT WITH**
- **CONFESS QUICKLY WHEN YOU BLOW IT, AND SEEK FORGIVENESS**
- **USE THE WORDS "WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?", "I FORGIVE YOU"**

*"Real forgiveness means looking steadily at the sin, the sin that is left over without any excuse, after all allowances have been made, and seeing it in all its horror, dirt, meanness and malice, and nevertheless being wholly reconciled to the man who has done it."*

– C.S. Lewis