

The Power of Forgiveness in a Fallen World

“The Foundation for All Forgiveness”

Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Selected Scripture

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Introduction

News cycles and YouTube clips provide daily illustrations of road rage, workplace violence, domestic upheavals, family fractures, and global wars. Vengeance is a popular theme in the human story. Retaliation is the preferred mode of operation and reveals the brokenness of this world. John MacArthur captures the prevailing mindset when he wrote, *“Our society is drunk on the grapes of human wrath.”*

Vengeance is not always violent. Sometimes vengeance is expressed with silence, a cutting off of those in our lives who irritate us, disagree with us, and wrong us. Instead of working through the issues, they are cut off.

This irreconcilable behavior is a symptom of a greater problem and that is how sin has separated us from God. For the believer in Jesus Christ, we are confronted throughout Scripture with the command to forgive. In fact, the Bible presents God as the consummate forgiver, and we are to be imitators of Him as dear children (Eph 5:1). The Gospel is a message about God's forgiveness and how we, who have broken God's law and transgressed His commands, can be reconciled to Him.

Jesus taught extensively about forgiveness. He taught of God's forgiveness of sinners and of our need to forgive one another. Jesus' teaching establishes standards that seem incredibly high and that is because it flows from the forgiveness God has extended to us. A forgiveness that is greater than any we may be called to extend to others.

~2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Psalm 130

I. **Forgiveness is C_____ Because S_____ is D_____.**

The ruination of everything is found early in the Bible

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins, Hebrews 9:22

Christ has come, dying once for sin

The transition that is often missed: Because God has forgiven us in Christ, we are to forgive one another.

II. **The B_____ N_____ We Could Ever Hear (2 Cor 5:14-21)**

Substitution- “who for their sake died and was raised” v. 15

Reconciliation- “God...through Christ reconciled us to himself” v. 18

Imputation- a legal reckoning, “He made Him to be sin who knew no sin” v. 21

Justification- declared righteous, “in Him we might become the righteousness of God” v. 21

Conclusion

God is a consummate forgiver (Psalm 130)

God is not a reluctant Savior

How forgiven do you know yourself to be?