

Colossians 3:11-14

Forgiven People Forgive People PRIMER

Hear the Good News:

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 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. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:11-14)

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?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 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. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." (Matthew 18:21-35)

The Point:

Forgiven people forgive people.

Quote:

[When you forgive], you are absorbing the debt, taking the cost of it completely on yourself instead of taking it out of the other person. It hurts terribly. Many people would say it feels like a kind of death.

Yes, but it is a death that leads to resurrection instead of the lifelong living death of bitterness and cynicism.

Embrace the Good News:

1. What was your big takeaway from Sunday's message?
2. Read Colossians 3:11-14 and Matthew 18:21-35
3. What does this passage teach about God (his characteristics, his actions, his plan)?
4. What does this passage teach about humanity (our propensities, our needs, our responsibilities)?
5. How do you begin to embrace the teaching of this passage?
6. What does it mean for your life as a follower of Jesus?
7. Practically speaking, why is this passage significant for your development as a follower of Jesus Christ?

Live the Good News:

1. How does this passage impact the way that you live out the Good News in your home and in your relationships with friends and family?
 - a. Parents: How can you model these truths to your kids and help them to understand these complex concepts?
2. How does it impact the way that you weave the thread of the gospel as you interact with your church family? In our local community? To the ends of the earth?