

360° FORGIVENESS

Part 5 of THE GOSPEL WAY

The Cornerstone Youth Group. March 4, 2026.

Total Forgiveness: Every Direction, Every Person

The Big Idea

Because God has _____ forgiven us in Christ, we are called to forgive _____ and to receive forgiveness for _____ — making forgiveness a complete, 360° reality.

Our Passage: Ephesians 4:31–32 (CSB)

“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”

Three phrases in verse 32 reveal three spheres of forgiveness:

- “God also forgave you” — God → _____
- “forgiving one another” — Us → _____
- God’s full forgiveness frees us to forgive — Us → _____

Sphere One: God Forgives Us

“...just as God also forgave you in Christ...”

The Greek word for “*forgave*” means “to give freely”, or “to cancel a debt.”

Key Truths

- It's _____. Psalm 103:12 — *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”*
- It's _____. Ephesians 1:7 — *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.”*
- It's a _____. Romans 6:23 — *“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Discussion

- What does it mean that God's forgiveness is “in Christ”?
- If God has completely forgiven you, how should that change the way you feel on a bad day?

Sphere Two: We Forgive Each Other

“forgiving one another...”

The phrase *“one another”* shows that forgiveness isn't _____ among believers — it's a _____. The word “just as” means the way God forgave us is the _____ for how we forgive others.

Key Truths

- It's _____. Colossians 3:13 — *“Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.”*
- It's an act of the _____, not a _____. You choose to forgive even when you don't feel like it.

- It's not the same as _____. Forgiveness releases the debt; _____ is rebuilt over time.

What Would Forgiveness Look Like If?

- Your best friend told your secret to the whole class.
- A teammate blamed you for losing the game.
- Someone posted something embarrassing about you online.
- A family member hurt your feelings and never said sorry.

Discussion

- Why is it so hard to forgive someone who hasn't said sorry?
- What's the difference between forgiving someone and trusting them again?
- How does remembering God's forgiveness help when you need to forgive someone else?

Sphere Three: We Forgive Ourselves

If God has forgiven you *"in Christ,"* then refusing to forgive yourself is essentially saying, "God's forgiveness isn't _____." Self-forgiveness means agreeing with God that the debt is paid.

Key Truths

- There is no _____. Romans 8:1 — *“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*
- _____ vs. _____. Conviction from the Holy Spirit leads us to repent and move forward. False guilt keeps us stuck in shame.
- Our identity is not our _____ moment. 2 Corinthians 5:17 — *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a _____.”*

Discussion

- Have you ever found it harder to forgive yourself than to forgive someone else?
- What’s the difference between healthy conviction and unhealthy guilt?
- How can we encourage each other to stop carrying guilt God has already taken away?

My Response This Week

1. Thank God for His forgiveness. Maybe write a short prayer of thanks.
2. Forgive someone. Who do I need to forgive? What did they do? Pray: *“God, I choose to forgive them. I release them to you.”*
3. Forgive myself. What am I still beating myself up over? Write Romans 8:1 here: