

Title: Even As Christ Forgave You

Text: Col 3: 12-13

Date: Oct 1, 2023

Place: SGBC, NJ

In my message this morning, I will be using the personal pronoun, "you", more than I usually do. When I speak of sin, I usually say "we" because I want you to know that I am the sinner in the dust with you. But I am using the pronoun "you" because I want this to be intensely personal to you. But do not think that I am excluding myself; this is so of me as well as you. But we each need to hear this as applying to our own selves personally.

Are "you" an elect child of God? Did God chose you in Christ by his free grace, not based on anything in you?

Have you been made holy by God? Not holy by your works but have you been made holy by God? Are you made holy by God the Father setting you apart in Christ in eternity in divine election and predestination; by the Son of God, Christ Jesus, perfecting you forever by his one offering and by the Holy Spirit creating a holy man in you when he formed Christ in you in the new birth?

Are you "beloved" of God? Loved freely before by God from the foundation of the world. Loved in Christ Jesus. Loved with an everlasting, unchanging, love.

If you are the *elect of God, holy and beloved*, then I have a message personally for you. This is God our Father's word to you, personally. This is Christ's word to you personally.

**Colossians 3: 12: Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.**

**Subject:** Even as Christ Forgave You

**Proposition:** Christ commands each of his saints, that if any have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also you forgive that brother/sister.

Christ commands each one he has saved to put on "*bowels of mercies*." It is to be touched with the feeling of our brethren even as Christ is touched with the feeling of your infirmities. It is to sympathize with brethren who are suffering. To weep with them that weep and to have compassion on them. To show them tender mercies from the inner most heart, *even as Christ has shown you tender mercies continually*.

Christ commands each one he has saved to put on "*kindness*" toward our brethren. From inward, unfeigned love, you are to shower brethren with abundant mercy in your acts toward them. You are to provide for their necessities and show them mercies cheerfully, *even as Christ does for you*.

Christ commands each one he has saved to put on "*humbleness of mind*" toward God and our brethren. You are to think of yourself lowly giving Christ all the glory in your salvation. When it comes to knowledge, to the gifts and graces given you of God, it is to esteem brethren better than yourself. When you have done as you ought to your brethren, it is to own yourself an unprofitable servant, the chief of sinners who did all only by the grace and power of God given to you. In all things, humbleness of mind is to think of yourself more lowly than your brethren, preferring they have the honor over you--*even as Christ did for you when he humbled himself and laid down his life for his people on the cross*.

Christ commands each one he has saved to put on "*meekness*." To quietly, patiently submit to Christ our Head; to patiently bear whatever sorrowful providence he has seen fit to give you; to do so without envying your brethren but being happy to see them blessed of God. Meekness is to submit yourself to your brethren; to do all things without murmuring and disputing because you really believe it is Christ working in his people both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Christ commands each one he has saved to be "*longsuffering*" toward our brethren. To suffer long with insults and reproaches--evil words and evil deeds committed against you--*even as Christ was and is longsuffering toward you*. As you suffer long you are to speak the gospel of Christ to your brethren for their edification, to pray for them, and to trust that Christ is able to make his servants stand.

Christ commands each one he has saved to "*forbear one another*." Not only to bear their burden--their sin and every shortcoming--but also to forebear rendering evil for evil, railing for railing. It is to forbear seeking revenge due to being offended.

Christ commands each one he has saved to be always, continually "*forgiving one another, if any have a quarrel against any*." That means forgiving any and all trespasses your brethren have committed against God and against you while praying for them that God will forgive them.

How is any child of God made to do these things? If you would do these things then you must behold what you did to Christ, what Christ bore for you and what Christ did for you--"*Forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave you*."

## REMEMBER WHAT YOU DID TO CHRIST

Elect of God, do you see that you despised and rejected and crucified the Lord Jesus Christ?

Isaiah 53: 3: He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and WE hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and WE esteemed him not. 4: Surely he hath borne OUR griefs, and carried OUR sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

This is true of every elect child of God. You, personally, despised and rejected Christ. You, personally, caused his sorrow and grief--Christ bore the sorrow and grief you inflicted upon him. You hid your face from him and esteemed him not. You judged the righteous Judge--you judged him to be stricken, smitten and afflicted of God--you judged him to be getting what he deserved on the cross. When did you do that? In all your days of rebellion and unbelief. Over 2000 years ago, Christ bore the grief and sorrow each of his elect inflicted upon him--only the elect. But if you are the elect then he bore the grief and sorrow you inflicted upon him. He bore your sins and iniquities in his own body on the tree.

Does your brother have to love you before you will love and forgive them? Did you love God? Did you love Christ?

1 John 4: 10: Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son, the propitiation for our sins. 11: Beloved, if God so loved us [after this manner], we ought also to love one another [after this manner].

John Calvin said, "If we regard our own advantage, or return good [only] to friends [or to family who love us], it is self-love, not the love of God."

Do brethren have to do good to you before you love and forgive them?

Romans 5: 6: When we were without strength, in due time, Christ died FOR THE UNGODLY.

Do brethren have to love you and do good to you before you will draw them to you? If God waited on us then we would have never come to Christ.

Jeremiah 31: 3: The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Malachi 3: 6: For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Lamentations 3: 22: *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

If holy, holy, holy God--who hates the wicked with a perfect, holy, righteous hatred--who is of too pure eyes to behold iniquity--if holy God loved us after this manner, if the holy Lord Jesus laid down his life for the ungodly--if he drew us in lovingkindness--if he continues to show us mercies every day though we sin against him every day--then we ought also to love one another after this manner.

That very word makes us see, it is not only our sin before we were converted, but our sins since. We despise and reject and sin against Christ in every sinful, unbelieving, unmerciful, unforgiving thought and deed since he called and converted us. This morning as you went about getting ready to come here, if you had even one fleeting, unforgiving thought toward any of Christ's people who have offended you then by that very sin, you crucified Christ over 2000 years ago.

## REMEMBER WHAT CHRIST BORE FOR YOU

If you would forgive then you not only must remember what you did to Christ (and do to Christ) but remember what Christ bore for you.

**Isaiah 53: 5: But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him;**

The things we can see which Christ bore from men was so very painful to our Substitute.

Isaiah 52: 14...his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

But who can speak of the wounding and bruising he suffered under the fury of God's holy wrath and justice. He bore that for his elect alone. And if you are one of the elect, focus on this. He bore that incomparable affliction for you. We esteemed him stricken of God...But he was wounded for our transgressions. We esteemed him smitten of God...but he was bruised for our iniquities. We esteemed him afflicted of God...But the chastisement of our peace was upon him.

Brethren, I would never minimize the sorrow caused to you when someone despises and rejects you, when they revile you and offend you. But, child of god, here the Lord Jesus speak to you about what he bore for you.

Lamentations 1: 12: *Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted *me* in the day of his fierce anger. "13 From above hath he

sent fire into my bones, and it prevailed against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate *and* faint all the day. 14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, *and* come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into *their* hands, *from whom* I am not able to rise up. 15 The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty *men* in the midst of me: he hath called an assembly against me to crush my young men: the Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, *as* in a winepress. 16 For these *things* I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed. 17 Zion spreadeth forth her hands, *and there is* none to comfort her: the LORD hath commanded concerning Jacob, *that* his adversaries *should be* round about him: Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them. 18 The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity. 19 I called for my lovers, *but* they deceived me: my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls. 20 Behold, O LORD; for I *am* in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: abroad the sword bereaveth, at home *there is* as death. 21 They have heard that I sigh: *there is* none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that thou hast done *it*: thou wilt bring the day *that* thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me. 22 Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions: for my sighs *are* many, and my heart *is* faint.

Isaiah wrote, "He was wounded for our transgressions"--it means to break, to violate, to torment. "He was bruised for our iniquities"--he was beaten and crushed like wheat ground by a pestle in a mortar. "The chastisement of our peace was upon him"--the wrath and vengeance of God required to make peace with God for you was upon him. Christ said,

Psalm 20: 14: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. 15: My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. 16: For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. 17: I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me.

We are about to remember our Substitute at his table. Paul said when Christ had given thanks, he break the bread. He said, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is BROKEN FOR YOU; this do in remembrance of ME." He took the cup and said, "This is the new testament written in my blood, my blood poured out FOR YOU." He said, "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you do show the LORD'S DEATH unto he come." Child of God, Christ gave his body to be broke for you, his blood to be poured out for you, he laid down his life FOR YOU." (1 Cor 11: 24-26).

How badly have you really been offended? How much have you really suffered? Certainly not anything like you offended your Lord! Certainly not anything like he suffered for you!

### **REMEMBER WHAT HE DID FOR YOU**

If you would forgive your brethren then remember what Christ has done (and continues to do) for you.

**Colossians 3: 13: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.**

Dear saint, God, your holy Father, has forgiven you for the sake of his dear Son.

Ephesians 4: 31: Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

God the Father gave his only begotten Son--who you despised and rejected--who you crucified. Could you give your only son to die for the brother or sister who has offended you? Well, God our Father not only gave his only begotten Son to save you who offended him, but God, for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

God the Father was in Christ and reconciled all his people to himself--child of God, he reconciled you. Christ bore your curse. Christ bore the fiery justice of God that you deserved. On the cross, Christ bore your hell, the second death

Isaiah 53: 5:...the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed.

Since Christ justified you, God is just to show you mercy and forgive you. The righteous and just thing is for God the Father to forgive you for Christ's sake. And the righteous and just thing for you to do is to forgive your brother or sister.

But our text says the very one who suffered for you, hath forgiven you--"even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye." I do not know how to say this. I do not mean to minimize God the Father's forgiveness. But Christ is the one who suffered because of our sin--because of your sin, child of God--and Christ forgave you.

Christ taught us to ask forgiveness each time we pray. He taught us to pray,

Matthew 6: 12: Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...14: For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

When a person will not forgive it is due to self-righteousness. They manifest they do not know what a great sinner they are. They manifest they do not know what Christ bore in his own body for his people. They manifest they know nothing of God the Father's forgiveness for the sake of his Son nor of Christ's forgiveness.

Matthew 18:21: Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22: Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

The Lord gave the parable of the man who owed a great sum and his Lord forgave him all his debt. But that servant would not forgive his own servant who owed him far less.

Matthew 18: 34: And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35: So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

God makes his people willing to forgive without limit by showing us our sin is far greater than our brothers sin. He does it by showing us how Christ bore our sins in his own body on the tree. He does it by showing us that God our Father has forgiven us for Christ's sake and Christ has forgiven us and he continues to forgive us every day. That is how God's child is made merciful and made willing to forgive.

Galatians 6: 1: Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

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**Amen!**