

Christmas is Forgiving

Luke 11:4; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; December 10, 2017

*And forgive us our sins,
For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. – Luke 11:4*

What is the ‘Christmas spirit’?

Giving? Forgiving? Giving for Forgiving?! - Luke 1:76-79; Luke 2:8-14
The greatest gift is grace/forgiveness! - Proverbs 18:19

1. **The God of Forgiveness:** *Should I expect God to be ready and willing to forgive me if I ask Him to do so?*

Yes! God commands us to ask for forgiveness because He is ready and willing and able to forgive us!

This applies to two kinds of people:

- Those who are enemies of God. (Luke 18:13-14; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 10:13)
- Those who are children of God. (Psalm 51:1-4; Luke 11:4; 1 John 1:9)

Exodus 25:17; Exodus 25:22; Leviticus 16:15; Matthew 5:7; James 2:13; Matthew 23:23;
Matthew 9:27; Exodus 34:6-7; Numbers 14:18-19; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 79:9; Psalm 86:5;
Psalm 99:8; Psalm 130:4; Isaiah 6:7; Jeremiah 31:34; Jeremiah 36:3; Ezekiel 16:63; Daniel 9:9;
Matthew 9:2; Matthew 9:5; Luke 7:49; Luke 23:34; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 2:4
2 Samuel 24:13-14; Lamentations 3:19–24

2. **The When of Forgiveness:** *When do I need forgiveness and when do I need to forgive others?*

When I offend God and deserve hell. When they offend God (and me) and deserve hell.

- *And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. – Luke 11:4*
- *‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. – Matthew 6:12*
- *¹⁴ For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. – Matthew 6:14-15*

What is a sinful offense?

- Something that fails to image/glorify God. (sin)
- Something that fails to love God and people. (debt)
- Something that violates God’s law. (trespass, transgression)

- It (sin, debt, transgression) is what the gospel is for!

Matthew 26:28; Luke 24:47; Psalm 32:1; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 2:12; Romans 9:23; Romans 6:23

3. The What of Forgiveness: *What am I asking for when I ask for forgiveness and what am I doing when I forgive?*

I am asking to be released from the punishment my sin deserves. I am releasing others from the punishment their sin deserves.

Romans 12:17-21; Genesis 50:15-21

4. The Why of Forgiveness: *Why should I expect God to forgive me and why should I be ready to forgive others?*

I ask God to forgive me because of Jesus. I am to forgive others because of Jesus.

Luke 11:4; Matthew 6:12; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; 1 John 1:9; Matthew 5:7; James 2:13; John 13:5-11; Matthew 18:21; Matthew 18:34-35; Luke 7:47

God has forgiven me completely (body washing – John 13:9-10) because of Jesus, so I am to be like Him and forgive others because of Jesus. I am to ask for daily forgiveness (foot washing – John 13:9-10) based on two things (1) God’s forgiveness of me because of Jesus (1 John 1:9) and (2) my forgiveness of others because of Jesus (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13). If I refuse to forgive others as God has forgiven me then (1) God will not forgive me of my daily sins but will discipline me for my mercilessness (Matthew 18:21-35) and (2) my standing in grace will be called into question, because those who refuse to show mercy will not be shown mercy! (Matthew 5:7; James 2:13)

What is Christmas about?

You are going to sin today! How will you handle it?

Someone is going to sin against you today! How will you handle it?

Christmas is about the cross! Christmas is God’s gift of His Son so we could be forgiven through His death on the cross and so we could be free to forgive others and show the wonders of His grace! Peace on earth!

*To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable in others
because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.
C.S. Lewis*