

“Receiving and Granting Forgiveness” (Matthew 6:12, 14, 15)
GCC, 7/30/23, Morning worship

Introduction: A good litmus test to gauge spiritual maturity is to honestly answer the question “Do I forgive as I have been forgiven?”

- A. Forgiveness is “Mirroring the Gospel”
- B. Forgiveness is the perpetual obligation of the Christian (Matthew 6:14–15)
- C. The *much* forgiven forgive *much*
- D. Love and Humility Govern the Granting of Forgiveness

How do we tune up and balance the gospel mirror of forgiveness so that it moves in both directions (i.e., receiving AND granting)?

- I. Those who mirror gospel forgiveness desire and pray for forgiveness of specific sins
 - A. We need to be asking for forgiveness every day
 - B. We need to be confessing particular sins, not just general sins
 - C. Why do we have to ask forgiveness everyday if Christ has already forgiven us ALL of our sins on the cross 2,000 years ago?
- II. Those who mirror gospel forgiveness will seek a **transaction** of forgiveness but if that is not possible, they will maintain a **disposition** of forgiveness
 - A. What is a *transaction* of forgiveness?
 - B. What is a disposition of forgiveness?
 - 1. A disposition of forgiveness is graciously frank not fake (Lev 19:16–18)
 - 2. Gracious frankness calls it like it is and hopes for reconciliation (Prov 27:5, 6; Prov 26:24–26)
 - C. Biblical Basis for Disposition of Forgiveness (Rom 5:8)
 - D. A disposition of forgiveness is just as “freeing” for you as it is for those who offend you
 - E. In both transactions and dispositions of forgiveness, remember that the standard you use shall be used on you (Matt 7:1–5)
- III. Those who mirror gospel forgiveness are **not better** than their Lord, but should seek to **imitate** their Lord (John 21:15–19)

Questions for application:

- 1. Is there disparity between my reception of forgiveness and granting of forgiveness? Why?
- 2. Have I refused to speak with someone who has offended me even though they wish to reconcile? Why?
- 3. Am I still cold, aloof, and distant from someone with whom I’ve reconciled? Does this mirror God’s character toward me after forgiving my sins?
- 4. Am I genuinely frank or graciously fake with people who have offended me? Why?
- 5. Do I expect a perfect apology before I will forgive? Am I applying a fair criterion of judgment here (see Matt 7:1–5)?
- 6. What needs to be shorn up in my forgiveness that will make the gospel look brilliant and me less bitter?