

*“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the Day of Redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **Forgiving One Another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:26-32 KJV*



Did God forgive us, because we deserved it? “*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” God forgave us, because He Loves us! The words of a precious old hymn come to mind when I think on that forgiveness.

“Father forgive them!” thus did He pray,
E’en while His lifeblood flowed fast away;
Praying for sinners while in such woe—
No one but Jesus ever loved so.

Love forgave the unforgivable. None of us like to think we offend others, but we do, often and without regard, thinking ourselves justified for doing so, because we were offended. “*Great Peace have they which love Thy Law and NOTHING shall offend them.*” Do you say you love God? Christ gave us Command, “*Love one another as I have Loved you.*” Christians claim they love God, but go around finding fault with everyone but themselves! Honestly, how many of us are fault free? When casting stones at another, are you sinless yourself? We are so quick to point out sin in others, but completely gloss over our own, because we rate sin, God does not! Even your “little” sins nailed Christ on the Cross. Think of that the next time you are loathe to forgive another! Forgiveness is a gift you give yourself. If God forgives you, who are you not to forgive another? Jesus told a story; “*Therefore is the Kingdom of Heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.’ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me that thou owest.’ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.’ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, ‘O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?’ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*” We can never repay our debt to Christ. Should we not, therefore, forgive our debtors?

“*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His Mercy He Saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*” Titus 3:5 KJV