

## Forgiveness

Pastor Mitchel Mershawn - February 15, 2026

"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!"...  
*1 Corinthians 9:24 NLT*

What is FORGIVENESS?

It's the act of "letting go"... of resentment and the demand for recompense for a hurt or offense, often described as canceling a debt.

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil —the commander of the powers in the unseen world.

*Ephesians 2:1-2 NIV*

He (Devil) is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.

It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!

*Ephesians 2:3-5 NIV*

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. '

*1 John 1:7 NIV*

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. '

*Luke 15:20 NIV*

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

*Luke 23:24 NIV*

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." '

*John 8:3-11*

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The Forgiveness of Jesus COMES at our WORST moments.

The Forgiveness of Jesus DOESN'T Ignore Justice; it SHIFTS it.

The Forgiveness of Jesus REMOVES the past and RESTORES the future

### 1. Receive forgiveness personally.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.' *John 3:17 NIV*

Conviction: is a gentle, and loving correction from the Holy Spirit aimed at bringing awareness of our sin, leading to repentance, and fostering spiritual growth.

Condemnation: is harsh, shameful, guilt, and hopelessness stemming from the enemy that leads to ((separation from God))

### 2. Release forgiveness to others.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.' *Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV*

...as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. '

*Colossians 3:12-13 NIV*

Quote: CS Lewis

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in me."

### 3. Represent forgiveness publicly.

Quote: Pastor Chris Hodges

God's forgiveness was never meant to stop with us — it was always meant to flow through us.