

Seeing **CHRIST** through the Eyes of Luke

Prayer & Forgiveness | Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:14-15 | 02.19.23

John 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

What Occurs in Prayer:

1. We give praise to God.
 2. We look toward the return of Christ.
 3. We surrender our wills.
 4. We receive and extend forgiveness.
 5. We seek strength to resist our spiritual enemy.
- If Christians extended forgiveness, many other issues would be avoided or resolved.

Why does God take such a strong stance on forgiveness?

1. It communicates gratitude to God for His forgiveness to us.
A lack of forgiveness is a lack of thankfulness for God's forgiveness, which is no small offense. Re: **Matthew 18:21-35**
2. It highlights the cross of Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14, 2:13-14, 3:12-13**).
3. It displays humility.
Forgiveness and humility are inseparable, *and* unforgiveness and pride are parasites to our body, mind, and soul.

Proverbs 11:17 *The merciful man does good for his own soul, But he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.*

James 4:6-10 *"...God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble. ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- The "daily bread" in the Luke 11 prayer speaks of a great need for every believer, for every day is God's grace!
- Saving grace – a one-time application at salvation. **Ephesians 2:8-10**
- Serving grace – the desire and ability God gives us to apply His Word.
2 Corinthians 8:1-7, Hebrews 13:21
- Sustaining grace – the grace provided during suffering and trials, and as we walk through the shadow of the valley of death **2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Psalm 23**

“There is no use in talking as if forgiveness were easy...I’ve forgiven him more times than I can count. For we find that the work of forgiveness has to be done over and over again. We forgive, we mortify our resentment; a week later, some chain of thought carries us back to the original offense, and we discover the old resentment blazing away as if nothing had been done about it at all. We need to forgive our brother seventy times seven, not only for 490 offenses but for one offense.” C.S. Lewis

1 Peter 5:5-7 *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

Hebrews 12:14-17 *Pursue peace (a command) with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;¹⁶ lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

- We sin because of the weakness of our flesh and the rebellion of our hearts. Rebellious sins are more grievous to God and more dangerous to our souls! A refusal to forgive is *often* rebellion against GOD.

What forgiveness is *not*...

1. Approval of sinful behavior.
2. Excusing sinful behavior.
3. Reconciliation (This requires participation from all parties involved.)



**FORGIVENESS
BOOKLET**

In following “God’s will” by extending forgiveness...

1. You are affirming your love for God. *Jude 1:20-21*
2. You are following the example of Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 2:21*
3. You are serving as a witness to the one you forgive. *Matthew 5:16*
4. You are encouraging your church family. *Hebrews 10:24*
5. You are protecting yourself from potential bitterness.

- Reconciliation occurs when the offender seeks forgiveness. When forgiveness is sought, we extend it in a Christ-like attitude.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

1 Peter 4:10 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*