

# Unpacking Forgiveness

And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. Ephesians 4:32 (HCSB)

**Series:** Unpacking Forgiveness #1

South Orlando Baptist Church

**Topics:** Forgiveness, the Cross

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**Text:** Ephesians 4:32

Dr. David Crowe

Ephesians 4:32 (HCSB) And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

Unpacking Forgiveness will require you to...

- 1) Research the command to forgive ("forgiving one another")
  - A) Submit to the Imperative
  - B) Show genuine forgiveness
  
- 2) Remember your own forgiveness ("as God also forgave you")
  - A) Recall the time when you were completely forgiven.
  - B) Think through the things in your life that God has given you a complete pardon.
  
- 3) Reflect on the model of forgiveness ("as God also forgave you in Christ.")
  - A) Look to the way Jesus forgave others:
    1. On the cross – Luke 23:34
    2. Peter – John 3:15-19
  - B) Observe how the forgiveness of Jesus is total.
    1. Colossians 2:13-14 (HCSB) And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross.

## Application Questions

Answers to some of the following questions will be found in Ephesians 4.

1. In what way were Ephesian believers instructed not to live as Gentiles? (4:17-19)
2. How did Paul contrast the Ephesian Christians with the Gentiles? (4:20-21)
3. In what way does God want Christians to change? (4:22-24)
4. How should new Christians stop living? (4:22)
5. How should new Christians begin living? (4:23-24)
6. How should believers speak to one another? (4:29)
7. How can the Holy Spirit be hurt? (4:29-30)
8. Of what five vices are believers to rid themselves? (4:31)
9. What positive commands did Paul give the Ephesians? (4:32)
10. Since becoming a Christian, what old habits have you discarded?
11. Of what aspects of your old nature do you still need to rid yourself?
12. How do you see the new nature taking hold in your life?
13. What evidence do you see that your life is controlled by the Holy Spirit?
14. In a related passage, Col. 3:13 reminds us to "forgive as the Lord forgave" us. What is the relationship between knowing we are forgiven and forgiving others?
15. Which comes more easily to you, knowing you are forgiven or extending forgiveness to others? Explain.
16. What barriers might stand in your way of knowing you are forgiven? What barriers might stand in your way of extending forgiveness to others?
17. When have you struggled to forgive a friend? How did God help you?
18. When we delay forgiving a friend, what are we usually trying to accomplish?
19. In what ways do you need to allow God to change you so that you will be a more forgiving friend?