

Forgiven!

If Forgiving!

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Luke 11:3 *Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive*
Mark 11:25 *When ye stand praying, forgive*
Colossians 3:13 *Bear with each other and forgive*
Ephesians 4:32 *Be kind and forgiving each other*

1 This prayer starts our day—AV Luke 11:3 “*And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.*”

1 We are always asking God to forgive us—but often forgetting that being forgiven is intrinsically linked to our forgiving everyone else.

2 We follow our prayer with: *Lord, take the hurt from my heart—I want to forgive!*

3 We have all been wronged, lied to, cheated, insulted, belittled, put-down, or offended in some way—so what do we do with the *hurt*, the pain, and memory that never goes away?

4 A recent online post said: *Letting go means to come to the realization that some people are part of our history, but not a part of our destiny—*

5 That is, if we are willing to *forgive* them and to not keep recalling the painful memory.

6 When such offenses are met, we are faced with two choices: get back at the offender through the *court system*, or to forgive the offender by God’s *system*.

7 Forgiving others begins with recalling the suffering of our Savior—Who bore the pain so we could be offered forgiveness. It is our *decision* to believe **Him** and our *choice* to forgive **them**.

8 Our being forgiven of mistakes and wrongs of the past is doable—and it begins by our forgiving those who hurt us.

9 AV Mark 11:25 “*When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*” *Verse 26 is omitted in NLT; NIV; WEY; included in AV and NKJV.

10 26 “*But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*”

11 Being forgiven by God and forgiving others by our willful *choice*, is connected. Both involve trusting God and faith in Christ by the power of the Spirit. It is a *decision* on our part to have the *love* of God in our heart.

1 Peter 1:22 NKJV “*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.*”

12 Refusing to forgive and its result is explained—NLT Matthew 18:32-33 “*The king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil [wicked AV] servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.*”

13 *Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’*” The man had no answer.

14 He would have been forgiven if he was willing to forgive—but he wasn’t, so...

15 NKJV Matthew 18:34-35 “*his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.*”

16 *So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.*”

17 Satan tempts us to resent someone or something, but Jesus *frees* us from those feelings—when we realize that—we Romans 8:12-13 NLT

18 “*Have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you keep*

on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you will live.”

19 God patiently waits 2 Peter 3:9 AV “*That all should come to repentance*” so no one would perish.

20 We just need to *repent*; trust Him in faith to take the hurt from our heart; and to *forgive* others 1 John 1:9.

21 Satan wants us to feel unforgiven—bringing up past failures or mistakes, or that we sinned too seriously and deliberately—but none are valid.

22 God told Moses AV Exodus 34:6-7 “*The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.*”

23 Eternal souls are of eternal value, so God has waited for centuries for people to *turn back* in faith; to *love* Him with all our heart; to *trust* Him for everything; and to faithfully *follow* His plan to *forgive* and **be forgiven**.

24 Anyone *could* escape the flames—but those who *escape* *repent*; *turn back* to God; and *forsake* the anger; bitterness; hurt, hate, and resentment they had kept in their heart.

25 There is not much forgiveness in the world—headlines reveal the *dominate* attitudes of this day:

26 —anger, resentment, hatred, bitterness, divorce, brutality, and revenge toward anyone who wronged them. A willingness to forgive does not seem to enter the mind of the world—but it is **first** on the Lord’s list!

27 When we *repent* of our sins and are willing to *forgive* others, God promises to erase all our failures of the past.

28 Psalm 32:5 AV “*I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*”

29 Religious leaders made false allegations against Jesus and in their wickedness, they murdered the Messiah. Such an outrageous crime would call for the most serious punishment—with no appeal possible—it would be the death penalty for first-degree murder.

30 After this wicked crime against His Son, God put this in the Bible—the apostle is speaking to Israel:

31 AV Acts 2:22 “*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

32 23 *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”*

33 As guilty as they were of the worst crime possible, *mercy* is shown and *forgiveness* offered. The people asked what they could do—the apostle told them AV Acts 2:38

34 “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

35 The *sentence* for the worst crime imaginable—is a *gift* of God’s love—and He includes His *mercy* to their children as well as to anyone else who is willing to repent and willing to forgive others.

36 AV Acts 2:39 “*For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”*

37 God did His part and now we must *choose*—repent and *forgive*; or *resent* and be *bitter*.

38 A huge price was paid for our conversion, but *Satan* wants us to *stay* angry, upset, and resentful. God is willing to *forgive* us, to *forget* the past, and to have us *escape* the coming wrath.

39 Saul traveled to Damascus to hunt down Christians, but even guilty of that wicked attitude, God’s *mercy* is extended.

40 Acts 9:4-5 NKJV “‘*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’”*

41 God *spared* his life and Jesus *saves* his soul—if he will *respond* to the warning; make *corrections* in his attitude; accept the *forgiveness* offered; and extend the *same* to others. Then he would be forgiven and escape the flames.

42 He admitted AV 1 Timothy 1:15 “*that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

43 16 *Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”*

44 The *seriousness* of our *sin* does not *cancel* forgiveness; and the *seriousness* of an *offense* is no reason for us to *withhold* forgiveness.

45 AV Luke 6:35 “*But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest.”*

46 No matter how *serious*, how many *times*, or how *deliberately* we have sinned, *God* forgives when we repent.

47 Jesus said AV Matthew 12:31 “*All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men.”* and 32 NIV “*Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven.”* God forgives every repentant sinner.

48 The only escape out of this wicked world is through a believing faith in the Atonement sacrifice of Christ.

49 Everyone will have to *believe* and put their *trust* on the Blood of Jesus to be justified before

God; or they will follow the world in unbelief and be judged guilty by the One who *wants* to forgive them.

50 God *wants* us to believe, to forgive others, and to trust Him in faith, but *that* is *our* decision.

51 Matthew 20:16 AV “*Many are called, but few chosen*”—due to lack of faith in God.

52 Jesus warned Matthew 18:3 AV “*Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

53 The man who rejected scriptural advice on finances was *still* loved by Jesus Mark 10:21—because God’s love for us *never* changes—it is our love for *Him* that changes.

54 We are to have a *new* life that *wants* to forgive—but we can *still* be *tempted* to resent. Romans 8:12 NIV “*We have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature.”*

55 The shed Blood of Christ brings a *change* in our heart; Romans 6:11 NKJV “*reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

56 The world resents anything and everyone for any reason—but we are to forgive the *minute* we are wronged.

57 God’s instructions are clear NIV Colossians 3:13 “*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

58 NIV Ephesians 4:32 *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

59 All it takes to be *forgiven*—is to just be a *forgiving* person!

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www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3214 25 0216A