

Forgive As Christ Forgives

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning, reflecting on Your repeated command in Scripture to forgive as Christ forgives. As Your Word says in Colossians 3:13 (NLT), we are called to "make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends [us].

Remember, the Lord forgave [us], so [we] must forgive others."

Jesus, we pause to consider deeply the words, "as Christ forgives." We will not rush past the weight of Your forgiveness, what it truly means, and the cost You bore on the cross for us.

Holy Spirit, illuminate our hearts and help us to see ourselves rightly. We repent for the times we have allowed pride to take root, for the moments we have minimized our desperate need for the cross, for when we have seen ourselves as good or deserving, and for when we have forgotten the reality of our human condition apart from Jesus.

Father, renew in us a heart of humility and gratitude, that we may extend the forgiveness we have freely received to others. Teach us to walk in the grace and mercy You so generously lavish upon us.

We remember, as Your Word says in Ephesians, that we were "like corpses, dead in [our] sins and offenses," and that "the corruption that was in us from birth [was] expressed through the deeds and desires of our self-life." We "[lived] by whatever natural cravings and thoughts our minds dictated, [and were] rebellious children, subject to [Your] wrath like everyone else" (Ephesians 2:1-3, paraphrased).

We acknowledge, Lord, that we deserved punishment, death, and hell. Yet, in Your boundless mercy, You spared us from what we deserved. Not only that, but You have lavished us with Your grace—grace so profound and undeserved that it transforms us from death to life.

Holy Spirit, restore in us a deep understanding of the reality of our condition before Jesus redeemed us. Help us to remember the weight of what we've been forgiven and the darkness from which we've been rescued. Let this awareness bring us to greater humility, gratitude, and love.

Jesus, Your Word in Luke recounts how, as You hung on the cross, bloody, disfigured, your body obliterated for our sin, You prayed over and over: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing" (Luke 23:34 TPT). Even in agony, with the last breath barely flowing from Your lungs, You chose forgiveness. You whispered it, declared it, and embodied it: Forgive them, forgive them, forgive them.

Holy Spirit, Help us to grasp the depth and gravity of what it means to forgive as Christ forgives—completely, generously, lavishly, and with self-sacrifice, even to the point of pain. Teach us to let go of the chains of unforgiveness and to mirror the grace we have received. Jesus, here, in Your presence, we renounce the sin of unforgiveness. Where we have harbored bitterness, hatred, and offense, we repent and ask for Your forgiveness. Cleanse us, Lord, from the poison of unforgiveness and restore us to the purity of heart that reflects Your love. Fill us with the courage to forgive as You have forgiven us, and transform us by the power of Your Spirit.

Your Word in Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT) instructs us: “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Holy Spirit, reveal to us who we need to forgive—whether it is others, ourselves, or even where we’ve held misplaced bitterness toward You, God. Lead us step by step through the process of forgiveness. Empower us to let go of all resentment and open our hearts to Your healing.

Just as Your Word says in Ephesians 4:26-27, we pray Holy Spirit, where we have been sinned against, fill us with Your power so that the passions of our emotions will not lead us to sin. Let anger find no control over us nor fuel unforgiveness—not even for a moment. Instead, fill us with the fruits of Your Spirit so we will not give the enemy any opportunity to manipulate or ensnare us. We refuse to remain locked in the prison of our own unforgiveness.

Today, we choose to forgive those who have sinned against us. For every hurtful word, act, or omission, we release them into Your hands, Jesus. We release all judgments in Jesus’ name, we release all accusations we’ve held against them in Jesus’ name. We acknowledge that holding unforgiveness limits the trust we can have in you, Jesus. So we surrender unforgiveness and all of its affiliates and we affirm our trust in your sovereignty as our righteous Judge and our Protector.

We also ask Your forgiveness for any bitterness we’ve held toward You. Where we have placed blame on You or allowed arrogance and anger to creep into our hearts, we repent. We hand all of these burdens to You in Jesus’ name.

Keep us vigilant to detect even the smallest traces of unforgiveness or bitterness as they arise. Teach us to quickly and wholeheartedly surrender them to Jesus, walking in the freedom He offers.

We ask for the full measure of Your goodness in exchange for what we’ve laid down before You today. As we command our bodies to release bitterness, anger, and offense, we ask for Your restoration in any area of our physical well-being that has been affected by unforgiveness. Pour into us the fruit of Your Spirit until it overflows—filling us with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Renew our minds today and fix our thoughts on all that is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable (Philippians 4:8 TPT).

Father God, we thank You for this divine exchange, for realigning our hearts with Your truth, and for the unhindered access we now have to the abundant life You promised. We walk forward in forgiveness, freedom, and the fullness of life with You.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

“And his fullness fills you, even though you were once like corpses, dead in your sins and offenses. (v.1) The corruption that was in us from birth was expressed through the deeds and desires of our self-life. We lived by whatever natural cravings and thoughts our minds dictated, living as rebellious children subject to God’s wrath like everyone else. (Ephesians 2:1,3)

“While they were nailing Jesus to the cross, he prayed over and over, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” (Luke 23:34 TPT)

Serve in Humility

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Father as we invite your will to be done, we’re reminded of the many times that our stubborn will collides with your sovereign will and so we want to take a moment to ask you to forgive us of all the times we put our will above your will, thinking we had a great plan. We’re sorry for not submitting to your authority in life’s circumstances and just forging through with our own selfish agenda. We make the decision right now to turn away from doing things our way and ask you to graciously lead us into your ways.

Philippians 2:3-8 (ESV)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus, we look to you to be our standard of how we should conduct ourselves and that your example to us is for us to consider others needs above our own. We know it’s so important for us to love one another, that’s a direct command from the Lord, but unfortunately, we struggle with putting ourselves first and so we invite you to fill us with your grace, but to also challenge us to be more like you in the way we carry out our daily lives. Jesus, we want to model our lives after you and to demonstrate to those around us how to walk in genuine humility, which brings you honor and praise.

I Peter 5:6-7 (ESV)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

The conversation we have to have with you God is in the area of trust.

In order for us to get out of the way and allow you to be Lord of our lives we have to choose your plans over our plans and trust you in the process. So many times we’re afraid that you may not come through the way we think you should and so we think we just need to take care of it

our way. So often that leads us down a path filled with curves, when your path is straight. We repent and ask you to forgive us for thinking we had a better way. The truth is, we need you to direct us and deliver us from ourselves, which leads to your promises of hope and peace, and your incredible provision.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NLT)

This is what the Lord says: Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast, should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things.

Cry out "Abba Father"—Daddy, come into His presence, bowing down at his feet, isn't a posture or position of weakness, but instead, a place of strength. As we do that we come under the protective covering of our Father.

Psalms 91:1 (NKJV)

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.