

Ephesians Series

Lesson #206

September 17, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

© 2023, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

Forgiveness: Imitating God

Ephesians 4:32



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Beginning with Eph. 4:25 we have an extremely personal section from Eph. 4:25 to 6:9. We have approximately 37 imperative mood verbs along with several participles that have an imperative sense.

2. Listing them so far. In Eph. 4:26–30 we have seen 9 commands. In today's section we have 3 more.

1, 4:25 Therefore because you have already put off the lie, Let each one of you speak the truth ...

2, 3, 4, 4:26 Be angry ... Do not sin ... do not let the sun go down on your wrath

5, 4:27 nor give place to the devil.

6, 7, 4:28 Steal no longer ... let him labor

8, 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth

9, 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

10, 4:31 Let [these] be put away ...

11, 4:32 Be kind to one another by forgiving.

12, 5:1 Be imitators of God

Forgiving One Another

Eph. 4:31, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Eph. 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Eph. 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

One Another Commands

Summary: All Facets of Love One Another

Love one another: John 13:34, 35; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12 ; 2 John 5

Members of one another: Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:25

Kindly affectionate with brotherly love: Rom. 12:10

Same mind to one another: Rom. 12:6; 15:5

Teaching and admonishing one another: Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16

Submit to one another: Eph. 5:21

Comfort one another: 1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11

Edify one another: 1 Thess. 5:11

Exhort one another: Heb. 3:13; 10:25

One Another Commands

Summary: All Facets of Love One Another

Do not judge one another: Rom. 14:13

Don't bite and devour one another: Gal. 5:15

Not provoking or envying one another: Gal. 5:26

Do not lie to one another: Col. 3:9

Do not speak evil of one another: James 4:11

The Words for “Forgive”

ἀφίημι v. (*aphiēmi*), “let go, cancel, remit, leave, forgive”

ἄφεσις n. (*aphēsis*), “release, pardon, cancellation, forgiveness”

Emphasizes the *act* of forgiveness

χαρίζομαι (*charizomai*), show favour or kindness, give as a favour, to be gracious to someone, to pardon

Emphasizes the *attitude* underlying forgiveness

Luke 7:40, “And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ So he said, ‘Teacher, say it.’

Luke 7:41, “ ‘There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:42, “ ‘And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?’

Luke 7:43, “Simon answered and said, ‘I suppose the one whom he forgave more.’ And He said to him, ‘You have rightly judged.’ ” [NKJV]

Matt. 6:12, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

Matt. 6:14, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matt. 6:15, “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

**ἀφίημι v. (*aphiēmi*), “let go, cancel, remit, leave, forgive”
ἀφεσις n. (*aphēsis*), “release, pardon, cancellation, forgiveness”**

Emphasizes the *act* of forgiveness.

Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

Col. 1:14, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins.”

ἀπολύτρωσις (*apolytrōsis*), redemption, deliverance, release; payment of a price

FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction.

Col. 2:13, “And you, [when you were] dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, [*BECAUSE He cancelled*] all [the legal guilt of your] trespasses,

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

Understanding the TWO Aspects of Forgiveness: God's and Personal

The first three kinds are all from God.

Col. 2:11, “and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col. 2:12, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Col. 2:13, “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

Col. 2:14, “having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Col. 2:15, “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

Col. 2:11, “and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col. 2:12, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Col. 2:13, “When you were dead in your transgression and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, **having forgiven [because He had already graciously cancelled] all our transgressions,**

Col 2:14, “by cancelling out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Col. 2:15, “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

Col. 2:13, “And you, when you were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,”

**συζωοποιέω
suzōopoiéō
aor act indicative,
to make alive together
with**

**χαρίζομαι *charízomai*;
aor act ptcp mns
adverbial of cause**

- 1. to give freely or graciously**
- 2. to cancel a sum of money or debt that is owed, Luke 7:42ff**
- 3. to forgive or pardon an action.**

How is Forgiveness from God Related to Our Forgiveness of Others?

How is Forgiveness from God Related to Our Forgiveness of Others?

Matt. 6:14, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matt. 6:15, “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

How Many Times do we Forgive Another?

Matt. 18:21, “Then Peter came to Him and said, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’

Matt. 18:22, “Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’ ”

FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction.

Col. 2:13, “And you, [when you were] dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, [*BECAUSE He cancelled*] all [the legal guilt of your] trespasses,

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

- 1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction. *Forensic Forgiveness***
- 2. Forgiveness positionally *in Christ*, Eph. 1:7**
- 3. Experiential forgiveness, 1 John 1:9**
- 4. Relational forgiveness, Eph. 4:32**

**Eternal
Realities**

**Temporal
Realities**

“POSITIONAL TRUTH”

ACTS 16:31



Col. 2:13, “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven (*charizomai*) you all trespasses,

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” [NKJV]

Col. 2:13, “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven (*charizomai*) you all trespasses,

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” [NKJV]

Col. 2:13, “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven (*charizomai*) you all trespasses,**

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He **has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” [NKJV]**

Col. 2:13, “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive together with Him, because He had already cancelled (*charizomai*) all of your trespasses [by paying the sin penalty at the cross], [RD]**

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He **has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” [NKJV]**

**ἐξλείφω *exaleiphō* aor act part masc sing nom
“to cause to disappear by wiping [BDAG]; to blot out, erase, obliterate, to remove with no trace left, wipe out””**

Col. 2:13, “And you, **being** dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive** together with Him, **because He had already cancelled** (*charizomai*) all of your trespasses [by paying the sin penalty at the cross], [RD]

Col. 2:14, “**when He obliterated** the certificate of debt that was against us **leaving no trace**, which was contrary to us. And **He has taken it** out of the way, **having nailed** it to the cross.” [RD]

αἴρω *airō* 3 sing perf act indic to take up

προσηλόω *prosēloō* aorist act part masc sing nom to fasten; to nail to

How did God forgive us?

1. He cancelled out, obliterated the sin.

Does God remember the sin?

Isa. 38:17, “Indeed it was for my own peace that I had great bitterness; But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.”

**Psa. 103:12, “As far as the east is from the west, so far has
He removed our transgressions from us.”**

Divine Forgiveness:

God completely removes the sin as a hindrance to our relationship to Him.

These sins are cast behind Him, removed completely to not be brought up again.

It is an act that is totally based on His character (we are to imitate God, Eph. 5:1).

It is an act of *undeserved, unmerited* kindness. **GRACE!**

Misconceptions:

It is not permissiveness.

It is not indulgence.

It does not *necessarily* remove consequences. (2 Sam. 12:5, 6)

2 Sam. 12:5, “So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, ‘As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!

2 Sam. 12:6, “ ‘And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.’ ”
[NKJV]

2 Sam. 12:9, “ ‘Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

2 Sam. 12:10, “ ‘Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

2 Sam. 12:11, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

2 Sam. 12:12, “ ‘For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ ” [NKJV]

2 Sam. 12:13, “So David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

2 Sam. 12:14, “ ‘However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.’ ” [NKJV]

1. Sin is a violation of God's character, not yours, or humanity's. It is defined by its violation of God's righteousness.

2 Sam. 12:13, “So David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ ”

Psa. 51:4, “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

- 1. Sin is a violation of God's character, not yours, or humanity's. It is defined by its violation of God's righteousness.**
- 2. Only God forgives sin.**
- 3. God forgave, 2 Sam. 12:13: "The Lord has put away your sin."**

Psa. 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psa. 51:11, “Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Psa. 51:12, “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”

Fourfold Consequences:

- 1. The baby died. 2 Sam. 12:19**
- 2. Amnon raped his half-sister, Tamar. 2 Sam. 13:14–15**
- 3. Absalom had his servants assassinate Amnon. 2 Sam. 13:28**
- 4. Absalom led a revolt against David, slept with his concubines and wives, and died in the rebellion. 2 Sam. 15:1–18:10**

Forgiving as God Forgave:

- 1. We are to turn the person over to God for discipline and/or judgment.**
- 2. This does not necessarily mean we return to the previous status quo; in some cases consequences will follow and the prior relationship is not restored.**
- 3. Any mental attitude sins of bitterness, anger, resentment, anger, accusations, slander, gossip are to be totally set aside.**