

WHO AM I?

↳ I AM FORGIVEN



COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

MAIN IDEA: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING *FOR* FORGIVENESS AND LIVING *FROM* FORGIVENESS?

COLOSSIANS 2 – A STUDY ON FORGIVENESS.

Colossians 2:6-7 (AMP): ⁶Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in [union with] Him [reflecting His character in the things you do and say—living lives that lead others away from sin], ⁷having been deeply rooted [in Him] and now being continually built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude.

WHEN WE:

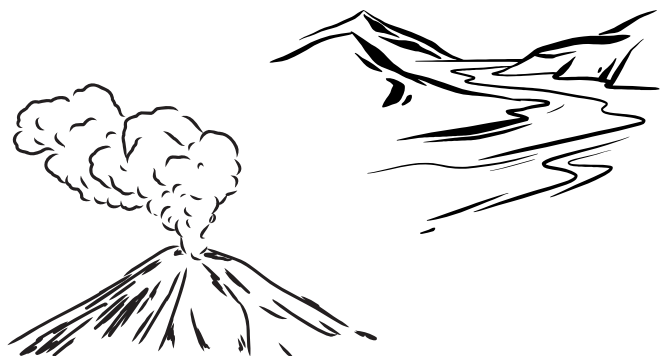
- “Walk in union with Him.”
- “Reflect His character in the things you do and say.”
- “Live lives that lead others away from sin.”
- “Deeply rooted in Him.”
- “Continually built up in Him.”
- “Become increasingly more established in our faith.”

THEN WE:

- Live in a state of overflow and our lives look more like Christ, and point people to Christ.

VOLCANO & RIVER CAUSE & EFFECT

ANALOGY: What happens when a volcano explodes or a river floods? What is the cause and effect? Because the volcano erupted or the river flooded, the area surrounding it is affected. The overflow of lava and water affects the surrounding area. In the same way, when we spend time with Christ, his presence overflows and affects the people around us.



HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE MAIN IDEA?

 LIVING “FROM” FORGIVENESS COMES FROM A STATE OF OVERFLOW.

 AND THIS STATE OF OVERFLOW CAN ONLY COME FROM HAVING THE RIGHT AND MATURE VIEW OF FORGIVENESS.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE HAVE THE WRONG VIEW?



Colossians 2:8-11 (AMP): ⁸ See to it that no one **takes you captive** through philosophy and empty deception [pseudo-intellectual babble], according to the tradition [and musings] of mere men, following the **elementary** principles of this world, rather than following [the truth—the teachings of] Christ. ⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity (the Godhead) dwells in bodily form [completely expressing the divine essence of God]. ¹⁰ And in Him you have been made complete [achieving spiritual stature through Christ], and He is the head over all rule and authority [of every angelic and earthly power].

WRONG VIEW > WRONG IDEA > WRONG GOD

(v.8) “Takes you Captive” – “Elementary Principles”

- When we have the wrong view of God and our faith is not rooted in truth, we end up falling for [taken captive by] the lies [elementary principles] of false teachers.
- **Elementary School Analogy:** [When Paul refers to elementary principles, he is referring to the close-minded, pagan beliefs of that time period.] Think about your time in elementary school – you were young, immature, undisciplined, ignorant, constantly making the same mistakes over and over. When we don’t root our faith in truth, we end up falling for the enemy’s schemes and we are deceived into the wrong view of God.
- The wrong view of forgiveness leads to a false idea/picture of God. When we have a false view/picture of God, we end up following a God who doesn’t exist, which leads to hurt, brokenness, bitterness, unforgiveness, anger, etc.
- In regards to forgiveness, when we have the wrong view of forgiveness, on top of the wrong view of God – we end up living *FOR* forgiveness [meaning we try to earn God’s forgiveness with the things we do] – something that is impossible and unbiblical.

SO IF WE CAN'T EARN FORGIVENESS, WHAT DO WE DO?



Colossians 2:12-13 (AMP): ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God, [as displayed] when He raised Christ from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (worldliness, manner of life), God made you alive together with Christ, having [freely] forgiven us all our sins.

(v. 12-13) NOTICE THE SYMBOLISM OF FORGIVENESS THROUGH BAPTISM

- Notice the **MOTION** – From Buried to Raised. Symbolic of us putting to death our sinful nature and rising into the fullness of God's calling on our life.

Romans 6:3-4 (ESV): ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- Notice the **POWER** – Paul says the same power that rose Christ from the dead is displayed and dispersed to those who accept new life in Christ.

Romans 6:5 (ESV): ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- Notice the **GIFT** – Not only the gift of eternal life, but the gift of being found alive in Christ. The ability to walk in the fullness of God's calling, and the acceptance of the free gift of salvation and forgiveness.

Romans 6:23 (ESV): "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

WHAT IS THE DEBT?

Colossians 2:14-15 (AMP): ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of legal demands [which were in force] against us and which were hostile to us. And this certificate He has set aside and completely removed by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross.

(v. 14) Certificate of Debt

- In this time period, if you had any debt, you would be issued a legal document outlining the amount of money you owed.
- Often times, when the amount owed was unable to be paid, you would have to sell your wife and children into indentured servitude. In many cases, you would either be thrown in jail or you would be sold into servitude yourself.

Matthew 18:21-35 – Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Notes:

- The first servant owed 10,000 talents – this would take roughly 200,000 years to pay off and would be equivalent to 6 billion dollars. This servant was forgiven of his debt, and was owed 100 denarii by the second servant.
- The second servant owed the first servant 100 denarii – worth roughly 100 days worth of work [though still a large debt, is small in comparison to the first servant's debt]. However, the first servant, though forgiven of his own debt, did not forgive the second servant's debt and through him in jail.
- When the king found out, he was angered, and the first servant's true character was revealed. – The first servant had not been transformed by the forgiveness that was extended to him.

FORGIVENESS > TRANSFORMATION > CHANGE



THE ONLY WAY WE CAN LIVE *FROM* FORGIVENESS IS IF WE HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED *BY* FORGIVENESS.

TOE STEPPER:

- Regardless of whether you like it or not, Jesus has called us to forgive others. [Matthew 6:12]
- A transformed heart must result in a changed life that offers the same mercy and forgiveness that has been received by God. Someone who does not show forgiveness to others shows that their heart has not experienced God's true forgiveness.

HOW DO WE BECOME TRANSFORMED BY FORGIVENESS?

FORGIVENESS CHECK-LIST:

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND FORGIVENESS,
WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND:





WHAT WE ARE FORGIVEN FOR?



Romans 6:6-7 (ESV): ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Ephesians 2:1-2 (ESV): And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world.



WHY WE ARE FORGIVEN?



Titus 3:5-7 (ESV): ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Nehemiah 9:17 (ESV): ¹⁷But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love



HOW WE ARE FORGIVEN?



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- Every sin we can commit and will commit was paid for in full on the cross. – Jesus took our place because the debt was too great for us to pay.
- Our identity is no longer found in the world, it's found in Christ, and it's through the forgiveness of Christ that we can experience true freedom.
- Jesus takes a symbol of shame and he makes it a symbol of salvation – a symbol of fear and makes it a symbol of forgiveness.
- Jesus overcame everything when he rose from the grave, proving that not even death can hold him back, that he is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

SO WHAT?



IT'S TIME FOR US TO STOP LIVING IN FEAR OF WHAT THE WORLD THINKS, AND START LIVING IN THE TRUTH OF WHAT JESUS SAYS.