

As God...Has Forgiven You!



God is spirit
(John 4:24),
and a spirit
does not
have flesh
and bones
(Luke 24:39)

The word of God instructs us to forgive others AS God through Christ has forgiven us. “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32). We learn about *how* God forgives us so that we can know *how* we ought to forgive one another. We have to “look” at God before we can know how to “live” with each other.

He forgives us—immediately. Remember the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15? Upon his return home, he wanted to become a day-laborer and pay back squandered wealth. However, his father—while he was holding him in his arms—made him his son once again. The forgiveness was gracious and instantaneous. Repent, turn to God, He will forgive.

He forgives us—completely. God does not forgive a few sins or just certain sins; He does not forgive only one sin every once in a while. We come to Him, He forgives every sin—the “big” ones, “small” ones, and “every size” in between. His cleansing can only be described as abundant pardon (Isaiah 55:7).

He forgive us—forever. God does not forgive us for only a day or two. When He removes our sins, He deals with them in such a way that they will never be brought up again (Psalm 103:12). They will not surface even in the vastness of eternity. Do you trust His ability to forgive you?

We have received, and so we are to freely give (Matthew 10:8). We have been forgiven, so we *must* forgive (Matthew 6:14-15). “Love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). Have “compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing” (1 Peter 3:8-9). We freely choose to forgive others.

As we extend grace to others, the model we have before us is God Himself. We want to be like Him—in love, forgiveness, and mercy. Right? If we do not forgive, we become the same as the ungrateful servant whose huge debt was forgiven but who would not forgive the much smaller debt of another (Matthew 18:23-35).

“Live” as God has forgiven you!

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

4 C’s Determine Destiny

- 1) *Consider* the choice
- 2) *Compare* your attitude & actions to God
- 3) *Commit* to God’s ways
- 4) *Count* on God’s protections & provisions

Bday/Anniv Lunch: TODAY...

Men’s Meeting: 3:30 PM TODAY & all men are invited to attend.

Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM; “Can a person be baptized for the dead?”

Kids Holiday Party: Saturday (12/14) from 1-3PM at the building. Baking cookies (bring rolling pins & cookie sheets). Doing crafts...

Adult Holiday Party: Sunday (12/15) after PM services. Finger food and gift exchange (9 to 12 dollars please).