
Forgiveness

The word forgive is a Grace word, in the English as well as in the Greek (**afesi~**). An early meaning in English was to give or to grant. Then, forgive came to mean to remit a debt; to give up resentment or claim for requital; to pardon an offense.

All of us are debtors to others, to society as a whole. And we often feel that people owe us many things in our human relationships. We feel we are owed courtesy and consideration. Sometimes we think that we are owed reward or status or promotion in some enterprise, or on the job. We are certainly owed fair treatment, justice, restitution and many other things.

But, many people in America are spiritually, ethically and morally bankrupt. They simply cannot pay society what they owe! They are thoughtless, selfish and ungracious. What should a Christian do about all of the debts owed to him. Answer: forgive them, as Christ forgave you.

A Christian who practices grace thinking from a divine viewpoint will become a forgiving person. To forgive means to give up a claim; to cease bearing resentment.

The rich man in Luke 7 was able to forgive the two debtors because he was prosperous. He

gave to them out of his prosperity. A person can only give to others out of what God has already provided in the way of prosperity. In terms of money, the principle is Let him that stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor, doing with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

As a growing Christian, you have many other kinds of prosperity, by the Grace of God. You have intellectual prosperity from a divine viewpoint. You have spiritual prosperity also called peace with God. You have emotional prosperity also referred to as a relaxed mental attitude. You have financial prosperity which can be called the mastery of details of life. You have social prosperity which can be defined as a stable marriage, stable family life, etc..

Wherever in your life you find that someone else owes you something, you have the wherewithal to forgive him! God has forgiven all of us who are absolutely without resources of our own. God is not expecting or demanding some kind of payment in return for His grace gifts. We are to be channels of grace to the world. Out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:38