

Pastor's Pen

Forgive!

Instead, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, graciously forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has graciously forgiven you. Eph 4:32

Forgive. It is something that every Christian understands. We are thankful that God has forgiven us of all of our past, present, and future sins (1 John 2:12; Hebrews 10:10, 14, 17, 18). When you acknowledged before a holy God that you were a sinner, repented of those sins, and believed in your heart that Jesus is Lord, your sins were forgiven, and you were born again. Even now, we are commanded when we sin to seek God's forgiveness.

The Mayo Clinic defines forgiveness as an intentional decision to let go of resentment and anger. However, The act that hurt or offended you might always be with you. The biblical definition of forgiveness is to keep no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:5) and to forgive as many times as necessary (Matthew 18:21–22). Refusing to forgive a person demonstrates resentment, bitterness, and anger, none of which are the traits of a growing Christian. Biblically, forgiveness is not just something that the offended person offers; it requires the offender to receive it, bringing reconciliation to the relationship. Furthermore, forgiveness requires that we give a repentant person an opportunity to regain our trust by forgiving them. Jesus commanded us to "Go and be reconciled to your brother" (Matt 5:24; 1 Cor. 7:11; 2 Cor 5:18- 20).

It has been said that we are most like Christ when we forgive. Unforgiveness is a sin, and it leads to bitterness that turns into hate. It allows someone to live in your head rent-free. In the fall of 2010, I was sitting in my office when Charles Allen walked into the church (my office is where Pastor Cal is now). I had met Charles through a mutual friend in 2007. He asked if he could speak to me about an issue he had with me. I invited him into my office and closed the door.

He then proceeded to tell me how he had held a grudge against me for three years because of something that he said I did. I asked him to elaborate because I did not know what he was talking about. He said that he left a message for me to call him after we had met because he was going through a personal issue and wanted my counsel.

He said I never called him, and he was angry with me and wanted to get it off his chest. I was stunned. I told him I never received that message and was so sorry for any hurt that I had caused him. He paused and then said, "You mean I have been mad at you for three years, and you didn't even know it." It was as if a heavy weight was released from around his neck. I appreciate that Charles came to see me all of those years ago. If he had not, he still might be holding on to bitterness that had no merit. Look what God has done through the life of Charles since he and Shelby have become members here.

Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping the person who you won't forgive dies. It kills you, not them. Paul commanded us to be at peace with all men as it depends on us (Romans 12:18). Be quick to forgive and slow to take offense so that the world may see Christ in you.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven: let us look into our hearts, and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt but God as forgiven us."

-Thomas Watson

Grace Gems

There is neither speck, nor spot, nor wrinkle!-(Charles Spurgeon)

"All who believe are justified." Acts 13:39

The believer in Christ receives a present justification. Faith does not produce this fruit by-and-by, but now. So far as justification is the result of faith, it is given to the soul in the moment when it believes in Christ, and receives Him as its all in all. Are those who stand before the throne of God justified now? So are we—as truly and as clearly justified as those who walk in white and sing melodious praises to celestial harps! The thief upon the cross was justified the moment that he turned the eye of faith to Jesus; and Paul, the aged, after years of service, was not more justified than was that thief with no service at all.

We are . . . today accepted in the Beloved, today absolved from sin, today acquitted at the bar of God. Oh! soul-transporting thought!

There are some clusters of Eshcol's vine, which we shall not be able to gather until we enter Heaven; but this is a bough which runs over the wall. This is not as the grain of the heavenly Canaan, which we can never eat until we cross the Jordan; but this is part of the manna in the wilderness, a portion of our daily nutriment with which God supplies us in our journeying in this poor world. We are now—even now pardoned; even now are our sins put away; even now we stand in the sight of God accepted—as though we had never been guilty!

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

There is not a sin in the Book of God, even now, against one of His people. Who dares to lay anything to their charge? It is God who justifies! There is neither speck, nor spot, nor wrinkle, nor any such thing remaining upon any believer in the matter of justification in the sight of the Judge of all the earth. Let present privilege awaken us to present duty—and now, while life lasts, let us spend and be spent for our sweet Lord Jesus! "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!" Romans 5:1

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 02/04/2024

General Offering	11,346.17
Building Fund	6,860.00
Uganda Missions	219.50
G3 Offering	30.00

Total.....	\$18,455.67
Attendance	233
Online.....	34

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Bible Church

Feb 11, 2024

Welcome