

Oxford Baptist Church – Pastor Robin W. Pifer – November 24, 2019. 2019 Theme: Transformed for Christ's Glory  
Message: "The Greatest Need in Every Relationship."  
Ephesian 4:31-32

**Deal with your Bitterness before the Lord. Eph 4:31; Prov 17:22; Hebrews 12:15; Isaiah 5:20; James 3:14**

- You can be bitter @ God.
- You can be bitter @ others.
- You can be bitter @ yourself.

**What is forgiveness?** Forgiveness is giving up my right to hurt people who have hurt me. The word "forgive" means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, and to cancel a debt. **John 20:23**

**Decide to Forgive because Jesus forgives you.**

**1. Forgive to Experience the Spirit-filled Life.**

- We forgive because we are forgiven. Eph 4:32
- We forgive, so bitterness does not control us. Heb 12:14-15
- We forgive to experience peace. **Matt 6:12-15**

**2. Forgive to Obey the Lord.** Romans 12:17-22  
Luke 23:34 **1John 1:8-10**

**3. Forgive to be Cleansed and Experience Freedom.**

1John 2:1-2 – Short Accounts and Quick to Forgive – Process  
Application: Bill Farrell – Promise Keepers

- I will forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for what they did \_\_\_\_\_.
- I admit that what happened was wrong.
- I do not expect the person to make up for what happened.
- I will not use what happened to define who this person is.
- I will not manipulate this person with this offence.

- I will not allow what has happened to limit my personal growth.

Father, I acknowledge that I've held resentment and bitterness against \_\_\_\_\_. I confess this as sin and ask you to forgive me. I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for all offenses, painful memories, feelings, words and actions. Remind me, Lord, not to hold any more resentments, bitterness, or anger to this person but rather to love this person. Father, I ask you to also forgive \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

"I was wrong in what I did. I am sorry. Please forgive me."

**Life Group Questions**

1. Share the greatest picture of forgiveness demonstrated in the Old Testament.
2. Why is it important that we forgive when Christ has forgiven us?
3. How does forgiveness relate to the Spirit-filled life? Reread the scriptures from the first point of the message.
4. In what ways does bitterness hinder our life?
5. Discuss the forgiveness of Jesus on the cross. How does the forgiveness of Jesus help us in forgive others "when they do not know what they are doing"?
6. How does an unforgiving spirit hinder the work of God in a local church?
7. Share an example where you forgave someone. How did it feel? What were the results? What happened in the relationship(s)?
8. Forgiveness is an important step in our freedom in Christ to live a godly and responsible life. How does the forgiveness of God in our lives to impact our daily life with others?
9. What are the spiritual results of being forgiven? List several words or verses that demonstrate all the benefits of being a forgiven and forgiving person.

