

The background of the slide features a photograph of icebergs floating in dark, deep blue water. The icebergs are white and jagged, with some smaller chunks visible in the foreground. On the right side of the image, there is a stylized graphic of a green leaf or plant with a dotted pattern, partially cut off by the edge of the frame.

Change the World: Forgive!

Luke 6:36-37 “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon (release)/forgive, and you will be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you...”

once more, Jesus is expressing in specifics perhaps the most fundamental law of the created universe—the **law of sowing and reaping**

Rom. 12:19—“Never take your own revenge, my brothers and sisters; allow room for God’s.”

- I don’t get mad, I get even; an eye for an eye; payback; vengeance is a dish that is best served cold

- God's Nature reflected in and through us:
His image Shining Through Humanity
- What God is like, we should be like too, in
attitudes and in actions!
- Because God is forgiving, we should be too:
“Be merciful, just as your Father is
merciful.”



God's Image: Forgiving

Exodus 34:6—“Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, **who forgives iniquity, transgressions, and sin;** yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on their children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.’”



- **Ps. 86:5**—"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive..."
- **Eph. 4:32**—"...forgiving each other, **just as in Christ God forgave you.**"
- **Col. 3:13**—Elements of the "new self" in Christ—"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, whoever has a complaint against anyone; **just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you (forgive others).**
- **Passion Translation:** "Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ..."

Four Practical Truths Concerning Forgiving Those Who Sin Against Us

- 1. We are to forgive other humans so that unforgiveness does not come back on us:

From Other Humans. Forgive, and you will be forgiven (by other humans) “Do not judge or you will be judged; do not condemn, or you will be condemned; pardon (forgive), and you will be pardoned; give, and you will receive.” Luke 6:37-38

four applications of the golden rule—do to others what you want done to you! – **to avoid unforgiveness from other humans flowing toward us**

From God --Forgive, and God will forgive us the sin of unforgiveness

Mark 11:25—“Whenever you go to pray, forgive those you have something against, so that your heavenly Father will forgive you your sins.”

Matt. 6: 12, 14-15—Lord’s prayer: “And forgive us our sins, as (in the same way) we also have forgiven those who sin against us.” “If you forgive others their sins against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you don’t forgive others, your heavenly Father will not forgive you.”



Practice a lifestyle of daily forgiving others for all sins we perceive they commit against us—two kinds of forgiving

Vertical:

Matt. 18:21-22—“Then Peter came and said to the Jesus: ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus answered him, ‘No, my answer is not up to seven times but up to seventy times seven times!’ (490—no limit! Rabbinical—3 times was enough) —context: no face to face asking of forgiveness! Still, we must forgive! —

“Be angry, but do not sin. Don’t let the sun go down on your anger” —
Eph. 4:26



Proactively forgive others before taking the Lord's Supper

1 Co. 11:26-30—“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine your own heart before eating the bread and drinking the cup. If you eat the bread or drink the cup without “discerning/judging” the body (of Christ) appropriately, you are eating and drinking God’s judgment on yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some of you have even died.”

“judging” correctly is the key—not “discerning” “the body” correctly—not seeing the interconnected reality of the church

The Spiritually “Legal” Way to Ask Forgiveness and To Forgive

Asking for and granting forgiveness is a spiritual transaction, cancels a debt in the spiritual realm; no: “I’m sorry, ok?”

For the one who sinned against the other: Ask forgiveness *specifically* for how you have sinned against the other person—

“Lynn, I’m sorry, ok!? —nope

“Lynn, please forgive me for failing to talk with you before cutting down your favorite tree.”



For the one who has been asked to forgive: State out loud that you forgive that person for what he has asked to be forgiven for

“Bruce, no problem; forget about it...” nope

“Bruce, I forgive you (for not talking with me...)”

Repeat as often as needed until feelings follow action and the forgiveness transaction is complete.

