

## The Forgiveness Cycle by John Piper

*"And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."* (Luke 11:4)

Who forgives whom first?

- On the one hand, Jesus says, "Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us." (Luke 11:4)
- On the other hand, Paul says, "As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Colossians 3:13)

When Jesus teaches us to pray that God would forgive us, *"for we ourselves forgive,"* he is not saying that the first move in forgiveness was our move. Rather, it goes like this: God forgave us when we believed in Christ (Acts 10:43). Then, from this broken, joyful, grateful, hopeful experience of being forgiven, we offer forgiveness to others.

This forgiving spirit signifies that we have been savingly forgiven. That is, our forgiving others shows that we have faith; we are united to Christ; we are indwelt by the gracious, humbling Holy Spirit.

But we still sin (1 John 1:8, 10). So we still turn to God for fresh applications of the work of Christ on our behalf — fresh

applications of forgiveness. We cannot do this with any confidence if we are harboring an unforgiving spirit. (Remember the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:23–35. He refused to forgive his fellow servant who owed him ten dollars, though he claimed to be forgiven ten million. He showed by his unforgiving spirit that the king's mercy had not changed him.)

Jesus protects us from this folly by teaching us to pray, "Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us" (Luke 11:4). That's why Jesus says we ask for forgiveness *because* we are forgiving. This is like saying: "Father, continue to extend to me the mercies purchased by Christ, because by these mercies I have been forgiven, and I forsake vengeance and extend to others what you have extended to me."

May you know God's forgiveness afresh today, and may that grace overflow in your heart in forgiveness toward others. And may that sweet experience of grace in your life give you added assurance that, when you go to God to experience fresh, blood-bought forgiveness, you will know that he sees you as his forgiven and forgiving child.

### Events

#### Today

College & Career Lunch 1 PM  
2/16–17 Marriage Conference  
2/18 College & Career Pasta & Prayer at Dekker's 7 PM  
2/23 Work as Worship Retreat

### Give



### Upcoming Events



### Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

### Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am  
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm  
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm  
919-563-9249 [www.grbc.net](http://www.grbc.net)

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**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

February 4, 2018

“I know  
the plans I have for you,  
plans for a **FUTURE**  
and a **HOPE**”

JEREMIAH 29:11

## Morning Worship

**Call to Worship**  
**Opening Hymn**

**Nick Gaines**  
**Doxology**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**(repeat with few singing "descant")**

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**10,000 Reasons**

**(Chorus)**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.**

**Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

it's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

let me be singing when the evening comes. **(Chorus)**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;

ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **(Chorus)**

And on that day, when my strength is failing,

the end draws near, and my time has come;

still, my soul will sing Your praise unending

ten thousand years, and then forever more! **(Chorus 2x)**

**I'll worship Your holy name, I'll worship Your holy name.**

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**Scripture Reading**

**John 1:1-18, page 886**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Offertory**

**#26 Our God, Our Help**

**Preparatory**

**When All Thy Mercies**

1. When all Thy mercies, O my God, my rising soul surveys,

Transported with the view, I'm lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Unnumbered comforts to my soul Thy tender care bestowed,

Before my infant heart conceived from Whom those comforts flowed.

**(Chorus)**

**Through all eternity to Thee a joyful song I'll raise.**

**For oh, eternity's too short to utter all Thy praise!**

2. When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou with health renewed my face.

And when in sins and sorrow sunk renewed my soul with grace.

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts my daily thanks employ;

Nor is the least a cheerful heart that tastes those gifts with joy. **(Chorus)**

3. Through every period of my life Thy goodness I'll pursue,

And after death, in distant worlds, the glorious theme renew. **(Chorus)**

**To utter all Thy praise!**

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**Sermon**

**Pastor Gary Hendrix**

## Evening Worship

**Call to Worship**  
**Opening Hymn**  
**Scripture Reading**  
**Pastoral Prayer**  
**Offertory**

**Pastor Bob Prentice**  
**#89 Come Thou Almighty King**  
**Psalm 33, page 463**

**#21 God Moves in a Mysterious**

**Way**

**Preparatory**

We fall down

We lay our crowns

At the feet of Jesus

The greatness of

Mercy and love

At the feet of Jesus

**(Chorus)**

**And we cry holy, holy, holy**

**We cry holy, holy, holy**

**We cry holy, holy, holy is the lamb**

We fall down

We lay our crowns

At the feet of Jesus

The greatness of

Mercy and love

At the feet of Jesus

**(Chorus 2x)**

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**Sermon**

**Pastor Andy Dunkerton**