

The Forgiveness Cycle by John Piper

Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

"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.



*there is joy before the
angels of God over one
sinner who repents*

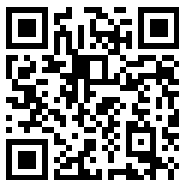
Luke 15:10



Events

TODAY College & Career
Lunch 1 PM
3/4 Small Groups
3/6 College & Career Murder
Mystery Dinner 6 PM
3/13 Mystery Dinner
6:30 PM
4/4 Senior Breakfast 9 AM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Stephen Byrd Stu Johnston
Michael Lopes Bob Prentice

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

March 1, 2020



GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Stephen Byrd
#216 Crown Him with Many Crowns
How Great is Our God

The splendor of a king, Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light, And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, Trembles at His voice.

(Chorus) How great is our God, Sing with me
How great is our God, And all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands, And time is in His hands,
eginning and the end, Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One: Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb. **(Chorus)**

(Bridge 2x) Name above all names, Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing, How great is our God
(Chorus 2x)

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Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer

Acts 17:1-15, page 926

Offertory

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me with His light-
And wrote His law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly.
Whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take.
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow Him.

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Preparatory

Show us Christ

Prepare our hearts, O God, help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground, help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us, cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear, lead us in Your truth

(CHORUS) Show us Christ, show us Christ
O God, reveal Your glory
Through the preaching of Your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Your Word is living light upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through temptations, makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones, freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul; come, speak to us today **(CHORUS)**

BRIDGE (3x)

Where else can we go, Lord, where else can we go?
You have the words of eternal life

(CHORUS)

Show us Christ, show us Christ, Show us Christ, show us Christ
O God, reveal Your glory, Through the preaching of Your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Music by Doug Plank, words by Doug Plank and Bob Kauffman. © 2011 Sovereign Grace Worship

Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston

Evening Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Kent Thompson
How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said, you who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed; for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by My righteous,
omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"E'en down to old age all my people shall prove My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still
in my bosom be born."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no never forsake."
Amen

Text: from Rippon's *Selection*, 1787; alt. Tune: Traditional American Melody, J. Funk's *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832

Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer

Romans 15:1-14, page 949

Offertory
Preparatory

#710 I Need Thee Every Hour
By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.
By faith our fathers roamed the earth with the power of His promise in their hearts,
of a holy city built by God's own hand, a place where peace and justice reign.

(Chorus) We will stand as children of the promise
we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.

Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed for Messiah would appear
with the power to break the chains of sin and death and rise triumphant
from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go in the power of the Spirit to the lost
to deliver captives and to preach good news in every corner of the earth.

(Chorus)

By faith this mountain shall be moved and the power of the gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name.

(Chorus)

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Sermon

Pastor Michael Lopes