

Sermon Series - FORGIVENESS

Week 2 – March 15, 2026

Pastor Chris Kouba

Key Scriptures

Matthew 6:12

Hebrews 4:15

Colossians 3:12–13

Matthew 18:21–35

Central Truth

Forgiven people forgive people. Because God has forgiven us through Christ, believers are called to extend forgiveness to others.

Understanding Forgiveness

- Forgiveness is both an event and a process. It begins with a decision but may require ongoing surrender as emotions and memories resurface.
- Jesus understands the pain of being wronged (Hebrews 4:15). He experienced betrayal, injustice, and suffering, yet chose forgiveness.
- Unforgiveness imprisons the heart and can affect families and future generations by spreading bitterness and resentment.

Two Common Responses to Offense

- Taking payments on the debt – continually reminding others of their wrongdoing and keeping the offense alive.
- Making payments on the debt – choosing to absorb the cost of the wrong done, reflecting the sacrifice of Christ who paid for our sins.

What Forgiveness Looks Like

- Releasing the desire for revenge.
- Choosing freedom instead of bitterness.
- Entrusting justice to God.

- Letting go of the emotional hold of past offenses.

Forgiveness vs Reconciliation

Forgiveness can be given by one person and releases the debt of offense. Reconciliation requires two willing parties and involves rebuilding trust and restoring the relationship.

Instruction for Believers

Colossians 3:12–13 calls believers to put on compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness. We forgive others because the Lord has first forgiven us.

Key Definition

Forgiveness is releasing your right to revenge and choosing freedom over bitterness.