

Sermon Series - FORGIVENESS

Week 4 – Forgiveness as a Lifestyle (March 29, 2026)

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Introduction

Forgiveness is not an isolated moment we survive—it is a lifestyle we practice daily. Scripture calls believers to intentionally live in forgiveness, shaping how we think, respond, and relate to others.

Key Scriptures

- Colossians 3:1–14 – Put off the old self and put on Christlike character.
- Romans 12:9 – Let love be genuine.
- Proverbs 16:28 – A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.
- Ephesians 4:32 – Be kind and forgiving as God in Christ forgave you.

Core Principle

Forgiveness is not an event you survive—it is a lifestyle you practice. It requires intentional, daily alignment with God’s heart.

Daily Beginning: A Heart Check

Each day begins with surrender. Ask: “Lord, who do I need to forgive?” This aligns your heart with God before the day unfolds.

Put Off (Colossians 3)

Paul instructs believers to remove attitudes and behaviors that hinder forgiveness:

- Anger and Wrath – Anger begins with offense but grows into wrath when left unchecked. Address it early.

- Malice – A desire for revenge or retribution. Forgiveness releases this inner hostility.
- Slander – Speaking about others instead of bringing pain to God. Healing happens in prayer, not gossip.
- Contempt – Words that degrade or dehumanize others, damaging relationships deeply.

Romans 12:9 reminds us to let love be genuine. Unchecked anger and slander distort genuine love and create division.

Put On (Colossians 3)

Believers are called to actively put on Christlike character:

- Compassionate Hearts – Being deeply moved by others' pain.
- Kindness – Choosing generosity and grace, even when undeserved.
- Humility and Meekness – Recognizing we are not superior; meekness is strength under control.
- Patience – Enduring with others considering God's grace toward us.

Ephesians 4:32 calls us to mirror Christ's forgiveness. These qualities create the environment where forgiveness can thrive.

The Thread of Forgiveness

Forgiveness ties all these qualities together. Without forgiveness, compassion turns to judgment, kindness fades, and patience runs out. Forgiveness sustains Christlike living.

Daily Rhythm of Forgiveness

- Morning:

Choose your posture: ask who you need to forgive and commit to walking in grace.

- In Real Time:

Address offenses while they are small. Proverbs 16:28 warns that unresolved conflict spreads division.

- Evening:

Clear the cache: reflect on the day and release frustrations to God. Do not allow today's offenses to become tomorrow's bitterness.

Closing Encouragement

Forgiveness is a daily discipline that leads to freedom. When practiced consistently, it protects relationships, guards the heart, and reflects the life of Christ within us.