

Grace and Forgiveness
CFCL
Pastor Allen Boutte
From Pain to Promise
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Definition of grace: God's Love instead of His wrath bestowed on sinners. The Holy Spirit stimulates our hearts, and the fruit of the spirit works in us, doing good whether it's an unbeliever or a person in Christ.

God hates sin, but He loves us.

The channel of God's grace comes through Christ dying on the cross as an atonement for our sins because there is nothing in us to save ourselves or cause anything in our hearts to change.

For His fullness have we all have received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses, and grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. John 1:16-17

Definition of forgiveness: The primary word in the scripture translated as forgiveness is aphesis. It denotes dismissal, release, or pardon. It is a derivative of the root word aphemi, which means to send away. Forgive also means allowing God to change your heart's desire, one being not to attempt to hurt the one who has offended us

Aphemi is the word used by Jesus when He said and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Questions:

1. Can you remember someone who seriously caused you pain or suffering?
2. Have you forgiven them?

When we do not forgive, it sometimes creates resentment, bitterness, and other deeds of the flesh that cause you to be callous, which can look like the disease - leprosy.

3. Why do we need to forgive?

A. There are severe spiritual consequences in the heart for those who refuse to forgive.

1. Our health is affected, and we are not able to correctly take the Lord Supper. (Corinthians 11:30)

2. God does not forgive us if we do not forgive others (Matthew 6:14-15)
3. Jesus commands you to forgive others (Mark 11:25)

Goals to keep your Spiritual Walk intact.

1. Develop a forgiving heart.
2. Look at a person you must forgive as an instrument in God's hand.
3. Thank God for a free heart because you forgave someone.
4. Ask yourself what characteristics God is building in you through forgiveness.

If you are suffering from an evil man's injustice, forgive him lest there be two evil men.

St Augustine