

Pastor's Pen

Forgiven to Forgive?

"Instead, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, graciously forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has graciously forgiven you." Eph. 4:32

When counseling a young couple before they get married, or a couple experiencing issues in their marriage, I have them read David Paul Tripp's book, *Marriage & Gospel Commitment Every Couple Needs to Make*. In the book, he lays out six commitments that all couples should make to one another. The very first commitment is, "We will give ourselves over to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness." This is the key to every relationship that a believer has.

Forgiveness is one of the most complex commands in the Christian life. Our natural reaction to hurt is to hold onto it and keep replaying the offense, justifying our anger, or waiting until the other person "deserves" forgiveness. But Paul reminds us that our motivation to forgive is not based on others' worthiness but on Christ's mercy toward us.

When we truly grasp how much we've been forgiven, it changes how we see those who wrong us. We remember that we once stood guilty before a holy God, yet He reached out in grace. Christ bore our sins, not because we earned it, but because His love compelled Him to show mercy. That same grace now calls us to extend what we've received.

Forgiveness doesn't mean we minimize the pain or pretend it never happened. It means we release the right to retaliate and place the matter in God's hands. When we forgive, we mirror the heart of Jesus—tender, kind, and full of grace.

So, who in your life needs to experience the reflection of Christ's forgiveness through you today? Remember: forgiveness is not a feeling; it's an act of obedience rooted in gratitude. We forgive, because we are forgiven. It has been said that when we do not forgive, it is like drinking poison and hoping the other person dies.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Holy shuddering!
-Charles Spurgeon

"Horror grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken Your law!" Psalm 119:53

My soul, do you feel this holy shuddering at the sins of others? If not, you lack inward holiness. David's cheeks were wet with rivers of waters, because of prevailing unholiness. Jeremiah desired eyes like fountains, that he might lament the iniquities of Israel. Lot, a righteous man, was distressed because of all the immorality and wickedness around him. Those upon whom the mark was set in Ezekiel's vision, were those who sighed and cried because of the abominations of Jerusalem.

It cannot but grieve gracious souls, to see what pains men take to go to Hell. They know the evil of sin experimentally, and they are alarmed to see others flying like moths into its blaze! Sin makes the righteous shudder, because it violates God's holy law, which is to every man's highest interest to keep. Sin pulls down the pillars of the society!

Sin in others horrifies a believer, because it puts him in mind of the vileness of his own heart. When he sees a heinous sinner, he cries, "He fell today—and, but for God's grace, I may fall tomorrow!" Sin is horrible to a believer, because it crucified his Savior! He sees in every iniquity—the nails and the spear! How can a saved soul behold that cursed Christ-killing sin, without abhorrence?

Quote of the Week

"You are never so like God as when you forgive. When you love your enemy, you bear a faint likeness to the Lord who, when He was despised and rejected, still loved and prayed for His enemies."
-Charles Spurgeon

Say, my heart—do you sensibly join in all this?

It is an awful thing to insult God to His face.

The good God deserves better treatment;

the great God claims it;

the just God will have it, or repay His adversary to his face!

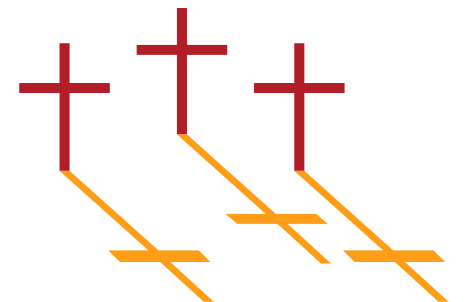
An awakened heart trembles at the audacity of sin, and stands alarmed at the contemplation of its punishment. How monstrous a thing is sin! How direful a doom is prepared for the ungodly!

My soul, never laugh at sin's fooleries—lest you come to smile at sin itself! Sin is your Lord's enemy, and your enemy—view it with detestation, for only so can you evidence the possession of holiness, without which no man can see the Lord.

Something to ponder:

Conrad Murrell: "To have all the so-called pleasures that this mad world scrambles for, and yet be under the wrath of God—is the most miserable state possible for the creature. To have none of this world's goods or none of its favor, and yet have the favor and peace of God—is a joy priceless beyond measure!"

"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ!" Philippians 3:8



Weekly Gatherings



Sunday Bible Classes

Elders- Old Testament (Sanctuary A)
Bereans- New Testament (Sanctuary B)
Ladies- (Downstairs B, Gray Room)
Young Adults- (Downstairs B, Red Rm.)
Youth and Surge (5th-6th)- (Upstairs C)



Weekday Meetings

AWANA—Wednesday's beginning Sept 17th 6:30-8
Men's Book Study—Monday & Friday beginning Sept 15th @ 7pm and Sept 19th at 6am



Family Groups

All Family Groups beginning **Sept 25th**
Host Families: Tom & Penni Cox, Jesse & Deborah Royall, Larry & Gina Covington, Jeff & Bridget Brown, Alan & Leigh Anne Chambers and Mark & Trisha Keffer



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 10/12/2025

General Offering	\$14,311.29
Building Fund	\$1,217.50
Uganda	\$50.00
Benevolence	\$280.00

Total.....\$15,858.79
Attendance 235

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Widows-admin@ghbcva.org
HH-HomeschoolHub@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

Oct 19, 2025

Welcome