

## **Forgive**

*Colossians 3:12-17 & Matthew 6:9-15*

I think our culture is becoming more unforgiving. Public shaming and severe consequences are the result of many things that need correction and changed lives. But there also needs to be forgiveness when one sincerely asks. Jesus and the writers of the New Testament are very clear about the beauty and power of God's forgiveness and the necessity of us forgiving others. (*Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 6:37, 17:1-5, 23:34; Ephesians 4:30-32; Hebrews 12:11-15*)

### **Obeying a Challenging Command**

Our desire for justice is troubled

Not all things need forgiveness

Forgiving is not excusing behavior

It is often hard to forgive

### **Living by the Grace Principle**

Our sin debt to God is infinite

God's grace through Christ is infinite and effective

We acknowledge our sin (repent) and trust in Christ's work

Grace opens our hearts to be conduits of God's grace

Denying the grace principle creates a boomerang effect

### **Extinguishing the Fires of Hurt and Retribution**

Stop and gain perspective

Drop to your knees and pray for the Holy Spirit's help

Roll with God's amazing grace

### **Enjoying the Glorious Blessings**

We gain relief from a bitter spirit

We experience assurance of God's forgiveness

We display God's rich mercy working through us

We participate in the ripple effect of grace