

August 15, 2026

Remember How You Were Forgiven

August Series: Christ-Centered Relationships

Week Focus: Grace Again

Scripture – Colossians 3:13 - *“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

Devotional Reflection

Forgiveness becomes especially difficult when our attention remains fixed on what another person has done. We remember the words, the disappointment, the broken promise, or the repeated offense, and the more we rehearse the wrong, the harder forgiveness can seem. Scripture does not ask us to pretend those things never happened; instead, Paul redirects our attention toward something greater when he says, **“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”** The grace we extend begins by remembering the grace we have already received.

Colossians 3:13 gives us both a command and a pattern: we are called to forgive, but our forgiveness is shaped by how Christ has forgiven us. We are recipients of grace before we are ever asked to become givers of it, because Christ did not wait for us to earn mercy, repair our record, or repay what we owed. Our sin was real and our need was great, but through His death and resurrection, Jesus provided the forgiveness we could never provide for ourselves.

Jesus demonstrated the depth of this forgiveness at the cross. Even while experiencing rejection, injustice, humiliation, and suffering, He did not allow the sin of others to change His heart or His mission. The cross therefore becomes more than the place where we receive forgiveness—it becomes the place that reshapes how we understand it. **When we remember what Jesus absorbed, what He forgave, and what His grace accomplished for us, we begin to see forgiveness not merely as something God requires from us, but as something Christ has already demonstrated for us.**

As followers of Christ, remembering our own forgiveness produces humility in our relationships. It becomes harder to stand over another person’s failures when we remember how often we have needed mercy ourselves, and although this does not excuse harmful behavior or eliminate accountability, it reminds us that we are forgiven people learning to live graciously with other imperfect people. When forgiveness feels difficult, we do not have to manufacture grace from our own strength; **we return to the grace we have received and allow the gospel to shape the grace we extend.**

Today, before concentrating on who needs forgiveness from you, spend time remembering how completely Christ has forgiven you. Remember His patience, the failures He has forgiven, the mistakes He has redeemed, and the mercy that met you when you needed another opportunity. Let gratitude replace superiority and mercy replace resentment, then bring the person who hurt you before God and ask Him to let the cross reshape your response. **When you remember how you were forgiven, you discover the strength to choose grace again.**

Focus for Today

The grace we extend to others flows from remembering the grace we have already received through Christ.

Practice

- Before focusing on anyone who has hurt or disappointed you, make a short list of ways God has shown mercy toward you.
- Remember a failure He forgave, a season when He was patient with you, a mistake He redeemed, or a time when you needed another opportunity.
- Thank Jesus specifically for the forgiveness you have received through Him.
- Then bring the person you are struggling to forgive before God and pray:

“Lord, help the grace I have received from You shape the grace I extend to them.”

Prayer

Father, thank You for the forgiveness I have received through Jesus Christ. Thank You for mercy I did not earn and grace I could never repay. When forgiveness is difficult, bring me back to the cross. Keep me humble, soften my heart, and help the grace You have shown me become visible in the way I treat others. Because I have been forgiven, teach me to forgive. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

How would remembering the depth of Christ's forgiveness toward me change the way I respond to someone who needs forgiveness from me?