

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/16/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part  
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## **Living In Pretense?**

You can't pretend to forgive your brother, and harbor bitterness without God knowing it.

## **The Heaviness of Unforgiveness**

If you're struggling with forgiveness, then ASK God for it! (e.g., ask and you shall receive!) - CONFESS your weaknesses!!! If you don't, you'll be stuck holding something quite heavy over the heads of all the people you've refused to forgive, and you will grow weary.

## **The Heaviness of Unforgiveness**

It takes a concentrated effort to oppose God on the subject of forgiveness.

## **The Lightness of Forgiveness**

The wise believer goes out of their way to make peace. (Jam 3:13-18)

## **For-GIVE-ness**

Love cannot help but express itself - love gives, even when the flesh is repulsed by even the thought of it. "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same" (Mt 5:46)?

## **Being Washed Clean of Sin**

True confession towards a repentant sinner is forgiveness. We are cleansed from the power of sin (experiential sanctification) when we confess that we've harbored unforgiveness against those who've sinned against us.

## **Mt 5:44**

*"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"*

## **Loving Our Enemies**

It's not about us, and it's not even about them! It's about the Lord, and the immeasurable amount of forgiveness He has given us. And there is the miracle; the power of God in man!

## **Perspective**

Ultimately, regardless of who we might be sinning against, EVERY sin is an offense to God! (2Sa 12:13, Psa 51)

## **For-GIVE-ness**

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## **Living In For-GIVE-ness**

We've got to go back to the Cross every day of our lives. Forgiveness is an attitude that becomes us. (ala Ps 51:12a "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation...")

## **"Be" a Vessel of His Love**

Receive His love, and forgive your brother with it.

Receive His love, and love your enemies with it.

You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. (Php 4:13)

## **God Will Humiliate You**

God will change our volition, by grace, as it is given to the humble. As necessary, He will humiliate you in order to bring this about. He will hit you where it hurts the most - maybe it's your pride, or your reputation, or your <fill-in-the-blank>.

Whatever the case, He will provide you with humility (remember Is 55:8).

## **God Will Humiliate You**

You may have a certain liberty, and God knows that you don't stumble as a result of it. You are free. However, others that you come into contact with may not share in that liberty due to immaturity. God will humiliate you (in a good way, to His glory) so that you don't make others stumble. (e.g., 1Co 8:9-13)

## **To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Required**

Lk 12:48b ... *From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.*