



CHRISTMAS: THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Christmas is a season of gifts, but one of the greatest gifts God offers us is the life-changing gift of forgiveness. This series invites us to explore that gift through three essential movements: *Receiving* the gift of forgiveness, *Giving* the gift of forgiveness, and ultimately *Living* a life shaped by forgiveness. When we embrace these three dimensions, forgiveness becomes more than an idea, it becomes a transforming power that heals relationships, restores hope, and renews hearts. **And when we open this gift fully, it just might make this Christmas the BEST ONE EVER!** Let's begin the journey together.

Christmas is a season of gifts, but one of the greatest gifts God offers us is the life-changing gift of forgiveness.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

December 11, 2025

Scripture: James 4:4-6; Romans 12:17-21; John 13:34, 35

Music: Matthew West - "Forgiveness" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz3tkHv5sbg>

Videos: Erika Kirk on Husband's Assassin: "I forgive him." - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OUj_Hzgnjs

Resources: *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* by Dr. Timothy Keller

GIVING THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS.

Christmas is the season when God gave us the greatest gift the world has ever known — *the gift of forgiveness* through Jesus Christ. And because we have received that gift, we are invited to **give** it. Forgiveness is not natural, not easy, and not cheap — but it is powerful, freeing, and deeply Christlike.

Dr. Tim Keller writes in his book *Forgiveness*: "**Forgiveness is both a decision and a process. It begins with surrendering the right to get even and continues as we release the anger that wants to linger.**" Giving forgiveness means choosing to let God be the Judge while we choose to be like Christ.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO GIVE FORGIVENESS?

1. _____ → Recognizes that *I* have been forgiven first. *Ephesians 4:32* — "Forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you." *James 4:6* — "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **Joseph** (Genesis 45) — humbly forgave his brothers.
2. _____ → Seeing people through God's eyes rather than through the wound. *Colossians 3:12-13* — "Clothe yourselves with compassion... forgive as the Lord forgave you." **Jesus** — "Father forgive them..." (Luke 23:34).
3. _____ → Forgiving is not weak — it is strong, sacrificial, and brave. *Proverbs 19:11* — "It is to one's glory to overlook an offense." **Stephen** (Acts 7:59-60) forgiving his killers.
4. _____ → Forgiveness flows from intimacy with Christ. *Matthew 6:14-15* — Our willingness to forgive is connected to our relationship with God.

WHAT PROHIBITS GIVING FORGIVENESS?

1. _____ → "They don't deserve it." **Scripture:** *Proverbs 16:18* — "Pride goes before destruction."
2. _____ → Rehearsing the hurt rather than releasing it. **Scripture:** *Hebrews 12:15* — "See to it that no bitter root grows up..." **Story:** Jonah — resentful when God wanted to forgive Nineveh (Jonah 4).
3. _____ → Fear blocks freedom. **Scripture:** *2 Timothy 1:7* — God has not given us a spirit of fear.
4. _____ → Believing forgiveness equals trust or minimizing the offense. **Scripture:** *Romans 12:17-21* — Let God handle justice; you walk in mercy.

FRUIT OF FORGIVENESS

1. _____ → Release brings peace. **Scripture:** *John 8:36* — "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." *Psalms 32:1-2* — Blessed is the one whose sins are forgiven.
2. _____ → Forgiveness is the bridge to reconciliation when possible. **Biblical Example:** Joseph + his brothers restored (Genesis 50:20-21).
3. _____ → When we forgive, we mirror Christ's heart. **Scripture:** *Matthew 5:9* — "Blessed are the peacemakers..." *2 Corinthians 5:18* — Ministry of reconciliation.
4. _____ → Forgiveness is the Gospel on display. **Scripture:** *John 13:35* — The world will know us by our love.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Who has forgiven you that prepares you to forgive others?
2. Who have you forgiven that stretched you?
3. To whom could you give the gift of forgiveness this Christmas?



Sign in to this Thursday's
Men's Roundtable



Donate to BPO



Sign Up for
Men's Coaching Weekend!

Scripture – The Message

James 4:4-6 – 4 You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. **5** And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that "he's a fiercely jealous lover." **6** And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. It's common knowledge that "God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble."

Romans 12:17-21 – 17 Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. **18** If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. **19** Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." **20** Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. **21** Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

John 13:34, 35 – 34 "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. **35** This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the love you have for each other."

"Forgiveness" By Matthew West

It's the hardest thing to give away And the last thing on your mind today It always goes to those who don't deserve It's the opposite of how you feel When the pain they caused is just too real Takes everything you have just to say the word... Forgiveness Forgiveness It flies in the face of all your pride It moves away the mad inside It's always angers own worst enemy Even when the jury and the judge Say you gotta right to hold a grudge	It's the whisper in your ear saying 'Set It Free' Forgiveness, Forgiveness Forgiveness, Forgiveness Show me how to love the unlovable Show me how to reach the unreachable Help me now to do the impossible Forgiveness, Forgiveness Help me now to do the impossible Forgiveness It'll clear the bitterness away It can even set a prisoner free There is no end to what its power can do	So, let it go and be amazed By what you see through eyes of grace The prisoner that it really frees is you Forgiveness, Forgiveness Forgiveness, Forgiveness Show me how to love the unlovable Show me how to reach the unreachable Help me now to do the impossible Forgiveness I want finally set it free So show me how to see what Your mercy sees Help me now to give what You gave to me Forgiveness, Forgiveness
--	---	---

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl. - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach

563 Johnson Avenue – Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Phone: 601-925-0707

Email: phil@bpointl.org

Webpage: www.bpointl.org