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Pastor Mark's Minute

It seems to me that many in our world are hurting for many, many reasons. And as we all know too well, hurt people hurt people. Because of so much hurt, one of the greatest needs of our day is forgiveness. May God use this article on forgiveness to bless you and yours.

There is tremendous power in Christian Forgiveness. Forgiveness is one of the most radical and beautiful aspects of the Christian faith. At its core, forgiveness reflects the heart of the Christian Faith. God's love poured out to us in Christ to reconcile us sinners to Himself. While forgiveness may feel unnatural to our human instincts—especially when we are deeply wronged, it is essential to following Jesus. Scripture repeatedly calls believers to forgive, not as a mere suggestion, but as a reflection of God's own forgiveness toward us.

God's Forgiveness is the beginning point and foundation for our forgiveness. Christian forgiveness begins with understanding how much we have sinned/messed up and subsequently how much we have been forgiven. The Bible is clear: "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Yet God, in His mercy, did not leave us condemned because of our sin. Instead, "In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us..." Ephesians 1:7

Forgiveness is not earned; it is given freely by God. Psalm 103:12 describes it this way: "...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

In Christ, because of Christ, our guilt is not diminished or minimized—it is canceled, defeated, destroyed. This kind of radical forgiveness becomes the model and the motivation for how we are to express forgiveness to others.

Jesus faithfully and consistently taught forgiveness through His life and ministry. A great example is when Peter asked if forgiving someone seven times was enough, Jesus said, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Matthew 18:22

And this does not mean we are to go through life with a running tally counting how many times we have forgiven those around us. No! It's a call to quit counting and start forgiving. It's a call to unlimited forgiveness.

Jesus illustrated this point in the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:23–35. A servant forgiven of an insurmountable debt refused to forgive a fellow servant of a small debt. The parable ends with a warning: if we withhold forgiveness from others, we show that we have not truly understood or accepted God's forgiveness for us.

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Perhaps the most powerful demonstration of forgiveness came at the cross. As Jesus hung in agony, He prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34 If the sinless Son of God can forgive those who crucified Him, those of us who call ourselves Christian, must desire to learn how to offer forgiveness in every situation. Forgiveness is not merely a feeling—it is a *choice* to release others from the debt they owe us and as a result, we are the ones who are set free.

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

Notice that the command is not conditional. Forgiveness is not based on whether the other person deserves it, they don’t, it’s based on the fact that God forgave us when we did not deserve it. Forgiveness is also essential to our relationship with God.

In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” Matthew 6:12 He explained further: “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14–15

Unforgiveness blocks the flow of God’s grace in our lives.

There is great Healing Power in Forgiveness. Forgiveness is not only an act of obedience—it is freedom. Holding onto bitterness or resentment poisons our hearts. Hebrews 12:15 warns, “See to it that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” When we forgive, we release the burden of anger and revenge and allow God to heal us. Forgiveness does not excuse wrong behavior, nor does it necessarily mean reconciliation will happen. But it does mean releasing the right to our pound of flesh and entrusting justice to God. Romans 12:19 puts it like this, “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

Psychologists affirm what Scripture has long taught: forgiveness brings us peace. But for Christians, it is more than emotional health—it is spiritual wholeness. Forgiveness allows the love of Christ to flow through us, breaking cycles of hatred and reflecting the kingdom of God. Christian forgiveness is not easy, but it is essential. It flows from the cross, where Jesus bore our sins and offered us grace, we could never earn or deserve. As recipients of such forgiveness, we are called to be conduits of that same grace in a broken world.

Paul summarizes it perfectly in Ephesians 4:32: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” When we forgive, we bear witness to the gospel, release ourselves from bitterness, and open the door for reconciliation. Forgiveness is not weakness—it is the power of Christ at work in us. Forgive and you will be forgiven. May the good Lord bring health and healing to your relationships as you pursue forgiveness.

I love you and can’t wait to see you!

Pastor Mark

Ladies Bible Study

Our ladies Bible study meets Sunday evenings @ BWC in the Youth classroom @ 6:30pm. Join us!



Men's Group

Our men's group meets each Sunday at 6:30pm in the adult classroom. Now is a great time to join us!

Awana

Awana meets on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Awana is our opportunity to reach the young people of our community with the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Approved workmen are not ashamed.

Cubbies Preschool - 1st Grade - Leaders: Angie Gile & Mabel Woodman

Sparks 2nd - 4th Grades - Leader: Pastor Mark

T-N-T 5th - 6th Grades - Leaders: Gary & Linda Dahl

Thank you, Hannah, for providing, preparing and cleaning up snacks!

If you can help with Awana, contact Pastor Mark @ (785) 527-3510.

Pot Luck Meal

We will enjoy an all-church family pot luck meal on October 19th after the morning service.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

If you are new to BWC, we would love to be able to celebrate your anniversaries and birthdays with you. Please place that information on a Connection Card on Sunday or email it to Pastor Mark at markwesley@nckcn.com. Thank you!

Youth Group

1. Thank you to everyone who supported our garage sale! We made over \$1,800.
 2. The Shoe Drive is almost completed. We need just a few more shoes to reach our goal of 2,000 pair. Check your closet, your basement, your garage, your storage and donate your shoes to assist those in 3rd world countries. October 5th is the deadline. Just drop your shoes by one of our great sponsors: Tuxies Bowling Alley, Dollar General Market, Cuba Cash Store, Melby's Home Center in Scandia, Pivotal Health in Courtland or Clifton Clyde High School. And we are so thankful for each of our fantastic sponsors!
 3. The Youth Group will be selling a variety of popcorn flavors from October 1st – October 31st. See Pam for flavors and cost.
 4. The Xtreme Christian Conference will be December 27th – 29th. The cost is \$250.00.
- Junior & Senior High Youth Group** (7th - 12th grades) meets on Wednesdays in the Youth Room at church from 6:00pm-7:30pm with a meal at 6:00pm.

Here is the most important and rewarding decision you will ever make in this life.

HOW TO KNOW JESUS: If you do not know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, I invite you to make that great decision today. Just pray from your heart the following. "Dear God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus. I acknowledge to You that I am a sinner, and I am sorry for my sins and the life that I have lived; I need your forgiveness.

I believe that your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross at Calvary and died for my sins, and I am now willing to turn from my sin. You said in the Bible that if we confess the Lord our God and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we shall be saved.

Right now, I confess Jesus as my Lord. With all my heart, I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. This very moment I accept Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior and according to His Word, right now I am saved. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer, congratulations! Your new life starts right now.

Children's Church

We are in search of one person or a couple to join the Children's Church Program and teach one Sunday morning a month. The curriculum is all laid out and very easy to follow. See Pastor Pam or Teresa for more information.

Fall for God, He never leaves!

All church work day is coming October 25th!



Belleville Wesleyan Church

909 Wesleyan Drive

Belleville, KS 66935



Because we care...about you!