

Ephesians Series

Lesson #205

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# Understanding God's Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32



# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**Beginning with Eph. 4:25 we have an extremely personal section from Eph. 4:25 to 6:9. We have approximately 37 imperative mood verbs along with several participles that have an imperative sense.**

## **2. Listing them so far. In Eph. 4:26–30 we have seen 9 commands. In today's section we have 3 more.**

**1, 4:25** Therefore because you have already put off the lie, Let each one of you speak the truth ...

**2, 3, 4, 4:26** Be angry ... Do not sin ... do not let the sun go down on your wrath

**5, 4:27** nor give place to the devil.

**6, 7, 4:28** Steal no longer ... let him labor

**8, 4:29** Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth

**9, 4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

**10, 4:31** Let [these] be put away ...

**11, 4:32** Be kind to one another by forgiving.

**12, 5:1** Be imitators of God

# Forgiving One Another

**Eph. 4:31, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.**

**Eph. 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

**Eph. 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”**

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**Eph. 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”**

**αἴρω *airō* 3 sing aor pass impera to take up**

**γίνομαι *ginomai* 2 plur pres mid impera to become, be, become something that you were not before, come into existence**

**μιμητής *mimētēs* masc plur nom imitator**



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**Eph. 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”**

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**χρηστός *chrēstos*  
Adjective masc sing nom  
kind, loving, benevolent**

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Adjective masc sing nom  
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# **One Another Commands**

## **Summary: All Facets of Love One Another**

**Love one another: John 13:34, 35; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12 ; 2 John 5**

**Members of one another: Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:25**

**Kindly affectionate with brotherly love: Rom. 12:10**

**Same mind to one another: Rom. 12:6; 15:5**

**Teaching and admonishing one another: Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16**

**Submit to one another: Eph. 5:21**

**Comfort one another: 1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11**

**Edify one another: 1 Thess. 5:11**

**Exhort one another: Heb. 3:13; 10:25**

# **One Another Commands**

## **Summary: All Facets of Love One Another**

**Do not judge one another: Rom. 14:13**

**Don't bite and devour one another: Gal. 5:15**

**Not provoking or envying one another: Gal. 5:26**

**Do not lie to one another: Col. 3:9**

**Do not speak evil of one another: James 4:11**

**Eph. 4:32, “And become kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, by forgiving one another, even as God in  
Christ forgave you.” [RD]**

**εὐσπλαγχνος *eusplagchnos*  
masc plur nom  
tenderhearted,  
compassionate**

**Eph. 4:32, “And become kind to one another, tenderhearted, by forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” [RD]**

**εὐσπλαγχνος *eusplagchnos*  
masc plur nom  
tenderhearted,  
compassionate**

**1 Pet. 3:8, “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having understanding for one another; love as brothers, *be tenderhearted*, *be courteous*;  
1 Pet. 3:9, “not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.” [NKJV]**

**Eph. 4:32, “And become kind to one another, tenderhearted, by forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” [RD]**

**χαρίζομαι *charizomai*  
pres mid participle of  
means masc plur nom  
to cancel, forgive**

# The Words for “Forgive”

**ἀφίημι v. (*aphiēmi*), “let go, cancel, remit, leave, forgive”**

**ἄφεσις n. (*aphēsis*), “release, pardon, cancellation, forgiveness”**

**Emphasizes the *act* of forgiveness**

**χαρίζομαι (*charizomai*), show favour or kindness, give as a favour, to be gracious to someone, to pardon**

**Emphasizes the *attitude* underlying forgiveness**



**Luke 7:21, “And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.”**

**χαρίζομαι (*charizomai*), show favour or kindness, give as a favour, to be gracious to someone, to pardon**

**Emphasizes the *attitude* underlying forgiveness.**

**Luke 7:40, “And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ So he said, ‘Teacher, say it.’**

**Luke 7:41, “ ‘There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.**

**Luke 7:42, “ ‘And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?’**

**Luke 7:43, “Simon answered and said, ‘I suppose the one whom he forgave more.’ And He said to him, ‘You have rightly judged.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Matt. 6:12, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”**

**Matt. 6:14, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.**

**Matt. 6:15, “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”**

**ἀφίημι v. (*aphiēmi*), “let go, cancel, remit, leave, forgive”  
ἀφεσις n. (*aphēsis*), “release, pardon, cancellation, forgiveness”**

**Emphasizes the *act* of forgiveness.**

**Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins, according to the riches of His grace”**

**Col. 1:14, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins.”**

**ἀπολύτρωσις (*apolytrōsis*), redemption, deliverance, release; payment of a price**

# FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction.

Col. 2:13 “And you, [when you were] dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, [*BECAUSE He cancelled*] all [the legal guilt of your] trespasses,

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

# **Understanding the TWO aspects of Forgiveness: God's and Personal**

**The first three kinds are all from God.**

**Col. 2:11, “and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;**

**Col. 2:12, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

**Col. 2:13, “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,**

**Col. 2:14, “having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

**Col. 2:15, “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”**

**Col. 2:11, “and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;**

**Col. 2:12, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

**Col. 2:13, “When you were dead in your transgression and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, **having forgiven** [because He had already graciously cancelled] all our transgressions,**

**Col 2:14, “by cancelling out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

**Col. 2:15, “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”**



**Col. 2:13, “And you, when you were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,”**

**συζωοποιέω  
*suzōopoiéō*  
aor act indicative,  
to make alive together  
with**

**χαρίζομαι *charízomai*;  
aor act ptcp mns  
adverbial of cause**

- 1. to give freely or graciously**
- 2. to cancel a sum of money or debt that is owed, Luke 7:42ff**
- 3. to forgive or pardon an action.**

# **FOUR Categories of Forgiveness**

- 1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction. *Forensic Forgiveness***
- 2. Forgiveness positionally *in Christ*. Eph. 1:7**
- 3. Experiential forgiveness. 1 John 1:9**
- 4. Relational forgiveness. Eph. 4:32**