



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 29 No. 32

LORD’S DAY 10 AUGUST 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:19-24

Opening Hymn *

RHC 85 – “O Day of Rest and Gladness”

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 13

Second Hymn *

Psalm 13

(to the tune of All Saints New, RHC 438)

Scriptural Text

Titus 2:1-15

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Alan Blaney

Sermon Message

Grace, Glory and Godliness

Closing Hymn *

RHC 419 – “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Mr Alan Blaney

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

**** Congregation Stands***

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 71

Q: What is required in the Seventh Commandment?

A: The Seventh Commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbour’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behaviour.

Scriptural Reference:

2 Timothy 2:22; Ephesians 5:11-12

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 109

Q. Does God forbid in this commandment, only adultery, and such like gross sins?

A. Since both our body and soul are temples of the holy Ghost, he commands us to preserve them pure and holy: therefore he forbids all unchaste actions, gestures, words, thoughts, desires, and whatever can entice men thereto.

Scriptural References:

Ephesians 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Matthew 5:27-28; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 15:33

Dear brethren, this week article is the second article on the topic of “Soul Care” written by Rev Mark Chen, Pastor of First Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore. This was published in their church weekly on 19th September 2021 and it has been reproduced for our edification.

Soul Care: Forbearing Our Offenders

Previously, we saw the need to forgive when we are asked to forgive. Each time our offender asks us to forgive them, we are to forgive. That is the character of God. We are also to seek forgiveness with sorrow and desire to make right – even making restitution when needed.

It is hard to grant forgiveness and seek for forgiveness – but both are commanded by God.

What happens when we do not forgive others? We are not forgiven by God. What happens when we do not ask for forgiveness? We are not forgiven by them. Similarly, toward God, if we don't repent nor ask forgiveness, he does not forgive us. This is simple.

This is why John the Baptist and Jesus, together with the apostles, in their public ministries always called the people to repent, if they are to receive forgiveness.

Why Do People Not Seek Forgiveness?

But why do people not ask for forgiveness? There are many reasons, but here are 2 for us to consider:

Firstly, it's because of pride on the part of the offender. To ask for forgiveness requires us to admit wrong and to seek mercy from those we offended.

This is why many people opt for the easier version — the apology. But this is not what God desires. It is one thing to say “I'm sorry” but it's another thing to say, “Will you forgive me?”

There's a difference. “I'm sorry” is when the offender simply issues an apology without requiring a response of grace from the offended party. On the other hand, “Will you forgive me?” is requesting the offended to extend grace. The former comes from an equal or higher position; while the latter comes from an inferior position.

Secondly, it's because of pride on the part of the offended. The Bible teaches us that it's the offended party that approaches the offender with proof of their sins.

And this is very hard. When we are hurt, we think that our offender must come to seek forgiveness from us first. To approach them requires humility. But this is what God does to those who have sinned against him.

When David sinned against God by his adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah, God sent the prophet Nathan to confront him. When Adam and Eve sinned against God, it was God who came to look for them. When Nineveh's judgment was nigh, it was God who sent Jonah to preach to them.

It was John the Baptist who called on God's people to repent. And Jesus, in Matthew 18, articulated the divine order – it was the king who called up his subject to account.

Similarly, in Luke 17:3-4, Jesus said, *“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him”* (emphasis mine).

Why do people not seek forgiveness or confront others with their sins? It's because both are proud. On the other hand, God is not proud. He calls upon all sinners to repent by the gospel – giving them the opportunity to get right with him.

But what does God do to those who do not seek forgiveness? Before he judges them, God does 2 things. Firstly, he patiently forbears with them and secondly, he displays his goodness in his long-suffering.

God Is Patient and Forbearing

In Jesus' teaching, forgiveness is granted when forgiveness is sought. If there's no repentance there is no forgiveness. Luke 13:3 says, *"except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* To the thief on the cross who pleaded with him – *"remember me when you come into your kingdom,"* Jesus answered, *"today you will be with me in paradise."* The other one never repented and was not forgiven.

So there is no forgiveness when there is no seeking of forgiveness. Forgiveness is not automatic. We need to repent. And if there's no repentance, there is no forgiveness. But if there's repentance, even 7 times a day, there's forgiveness 7 times a day.

But when there is no repentance, God forbears. He is long-suffering. Forbearing means to put up with something. Jesus used this word in Matthew 17:17 when the Jews disbelieved him despite his miracles – *"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer (forbear with) you?"*

Paul described his own experience when he was persecuted. 1 Corinthians 4:12 – *"And we labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer (or bear with) it."* Hence, to forbear means to endure difficult circumstances patiently. It means that we restrain ourselves to put up with someone.

And this is what God does with sinners. In 1 Peter 3:20, we learn it took Noah 120 years to build the ark. This was the time the world had to repent. As he built, Noah preached the gospel to warn the people. God bore 120 years with this people, whose heart's imagination was only wicked. If God can do that, we can also forbear with those who sin against us. This is why Colossians 3:13 instructs believers to forbear one another.

But how do we forbear? There are those who would think that forbearance is passive – simply exercising patience and suffering the evil that others do. But this is not so. God's forbearance is active.

God Displays His Goodness in His Long-suffering

How does God bear with his enemies? Matthew 4:43-45 – *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."*

In his providence, God gives sun and rain to the undeserving. He commands us to therefore do good to our enemies. Why? Because God does it for a purpose.

Why did he wait 120 years before sending the flood and call Noah to be a preacher of righteousness? Why does he send the sun to rise on the unjust and send rain on them? Why this forbearance?

The answer is in Romans 2:4, which addresses the yet unrepentant man, *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"*

God forbears so that sinners have opportunity to repent. And they repent not only because of his judgment and accusation against them; but because he is good and forbears with them. How does he expect us to forbear in this way? To do good to our enemies and offenders?

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WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begin with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study & Children's Sunday School** at **1:30pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time worshipping with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, please join our Worship Service and Bible Study on our live-stream via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

We thank God for providing Mr Alan Blaney to minister to us this Lord's Day.

Next week, Mr Charles Scott-Pearson will be ministering to us.

Tithes & Offerings – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

After-Service Fellowship – Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service.

Please bring your own lunch as only drinks will be provided.

Afternoon Bible Study – Mr Blaney will conduct the study on the topic of "The Law and the Believer – Part 2".

Children's Sunday School – held after the After-Service Fellowship at 1:30pm.

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

*"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation
hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and
worldly lusts, we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly, in this present world;"*

Titus 2:11-12

Last Week

*"And seek the peace of the city whither I
have caused you to be carried away
captives, and pray unto the LORD for it:
for in the peace thereof shall ye have
peace."*

Jeremiah 29:7

We show kindness – just as God does. Romans 12:19-21 - *"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."*

When we do good, when we show kindness, as God wills, it may change the person – the coldness and hardness of his head and heart will melt away. That is active forbearance.

Conclusion

Forgiveness and forbearance are commanded. Both are hard to do when you have been offended. It is also hard to seek forgiveness.

It is even harder to confront someone who has offended you so they can seek forgiveness. And it is humbling to have to do good to your enemy and offender so that they may repent.

Often, the missing element is the grace of God. Because we receive not the grace of God, we find it hard to do these things. But when we receive God's grace, we can forgive, forbear, be humbled to seek forgiveness, and even humbled to bring a person's sins before them. God's grace humbles us.

This is what we will look at next in our next edition of soul care.