



*Forgive  
Luke 17  
The Art of Relinquishment – An Act of Worship*

- **PRAYER BOARD**
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Forgiveness: 2/10<sup>th</sup>, 2/17<sup>th</sup> (Gone), 2/24<sup>th</sup>, 3/3<sup>rd</sup>, 3/10<sup>th</sup>**

1. **Forgiveness as Worship:** *The Six Challenges of Forgiveness in Luke 17 (add Communion notes to this: Communion = celebration of forgiveness, Communion is worship.)*

**Forgiveness is not ‘a choice’ for Christians:**

- #1.) LIVE a lifestyle that does not cause others to stumble (Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42)
- #2.) GUARD your heart.
- #3.) GUARD your heart so you can rebuke while taking no offense
- #4.) Living as a forgiven person comes with responsibilities.
- #5.) ASK for supernatural help
- #6.) **Forgiveness is an act of duty...forgiveness is an act of Worship**

2. *What Forgiveness Is/What Forgiveness is Not*
3. *The Role of Anger in Forgiveness: Is it legitimate?* **THE BLESSING OF ANGER**
4. **Forgiving Oneself** (Understanding Your Salvation) – Begins with understanding GRACE
  - I. The Tension of Self Esteem (Pride V.S. Self Love? Acceptance? Embrace? Respect.)
  - II. What Give Us Value?
  - III. Resiliency

*Understanding you are on purpose Psalm 139:13-16 I Am On Purpose.*

5. **Living IN Equity**  
Filling our Jesus sized spaces with people instead of Him. Causes us to need them too much and stops healthy conflict. Leaving our Jesus sized spaces empty. Causes us to island ourselves off and begin the walk down the road of isolation.
6. **Good Grief** [2/10]
7. **Boundaries in Forgiveness** [2/17]
8. **Endings: The Wise, The Foolish, The Evil** [2/24]
9. **Making Judgements and Engaging with Conflict that ensues: Peace Maker v.s. Peace Lover**
10. **The Art of Relinquishing Control** [3/10] Love yr Enemies notes from MNBS
  - **Celebrating Communion as an ACT of FORGIVENESS** [slaps us with forgiveness each time we enter into this ordinance].

Have you ever wondered if God really sees you?  
 Have you ever wondered if God really can love you?  
 Have you ever wondered if God could really forgive your horrible past?  
 Have you ever felt worthless even though you love Jesus?  
 If we ever have, then we do not understand what happened when we met Jesus at Salvation.  
 Come, find out what Jesus’ love really does:  
 Soteriology – a.k.a. The Salvation Principle  
 Beginning March 17<sup>th</sup>, Pr. Orleen and the Wednesday Night Crew as we unpack the meaning of our SALVATION.

**Soteriology** is the branch of theology dealing with the study of salvation. The term comes from the Greek soterion, “salvation,” and is also related to soter, “savior.” **Soteriology** relates to several other branches of theology in that it asks who is saved, by whom, from what, and by what means.

We will have a table up front that will have the Communion Elements on them. Not the sanitary sealed ones.  
 Need a gloved volunteer to pour the juice into cups and hand out the crackers. I will have the cups and juice and crackers and napkins all set out on the table.  
 6:30-7:30 will be prayer and message.  
 7:30-8:00 will be the ceremony of writing out of the Forgiving letters and celebrating communion as a way to seal the reality of this growth step.  
 Michelle, we will need music for that last 30 minutes.  
 Prayer: Will ask those that would like prayer to step over to the cross on stage right (near the outside wall of the auditorium).  
**Volunteers:**  
 Communion table - One (Serve and tear down)  
 Prayer by the cross - Two  
 Music - Michelle  
 EXCITED!  
 We have armed another crew to walk in true FORGIVENESS!  
 Those Changed Lives...PO



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**II. Relinquishing Control**

**Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,  
<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Forgiveness is not: Pretending an injury doesn't matter.

Forgiveness is not: Ceasing to hurt.

Forgiveness is not: Forgetting.

Forgiveness is not: Pretending that the relationship is just the same as it was before the offense.

You need to know what you believe forgiveness means in order to: RELINQUISH CONTROL

Define Control w/ROPE DEMO

1. Person wants to lead and other complies.
2. Person wants to lead and other does not budge.
3. Person wants to lead and other wants to go their own way.
4. Person wants to lead and other completely drops the rope.

You are in control 1 out of 4 times. So who is in control 3 out of 4?

Define: Control = Emotional Security

- Being accepted as you are.
- Finishing an accomplishment as planned.
- No hassles, no mistakes.
- Life is happy when it is in 'control'.
- WE FEEL SECURE

Define: Loss of Control = Emotional Volatility (volatile)

- When people refuse to accept you as you are.
- When the planned accomplishment does not finished as planned.
- Hassles, mistakes, errors galore.
- Life is stressful when it is out of 'control'.
- WE FEEL INSECURE

ASK: What does it mean to relinquish control?

**cede something:** to renounce or surrender something

to voluntarily give up our security

I would like to propose to you:

- That the security comes, truly comes, when you RELINQUISH CONTROL.
- The question isn't are WE in control, but WHO or WHAT are we letting be in control:

Feelings	(They hurt me so bad I just can't forgive)
Reason	(They do not deserve forgiveness)
Mental Toughness	(I don't need them in my life)
Stronger personality	(They always seem to know what is right and they are so difficult to convince otherwise...so no matter how I feel I will do as they say.)



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May I suggest letting the Sovereignty of God be in control

- **independent**, autonomous, self-governing, free, self-determining
- **supreme**, dominant, ascendant, predominant, absolute, with complete power
- **outstanding**, superior, supreme, excellent, matchless, peerless

THIS IS WHAT WE OFFER TO THE LORD DURING COMMUNION...our control.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: *HE IS SOVEREIGN*

1.) God alone is accountable to no one and is supreme in power, rank, authority, virtues, decrees, and work

(Ps. 115:3).

For our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes. (NLT)  
Our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him. (NIV)

Daniel 4:35

Holman Christian Standard Bible

<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing, and He does what He wants<sup>(A)</sup> with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth.

There is no one who can hold back His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"<sup>(B)</sup>

Isaiah 45:7

Holman Christian Standard Bible

<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness,<sup>(A)</sup>  
I make success and create disaster;<sup>(B)</sup>  
I, Yahweh, do all these things.

Romans 9:20

Holman Christian Standard Bible

<sup>20</sup> But who are you, a mere man, to talk back to God?<sup>(A)</sup> Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?"<sup>(B)</sup>

2.) Strictly speaking, the title "Sovereign" belongs only to Him  
(Deut. 4:39).

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

3.) Everything depends on God, but He depends on nothing.  
(Col. 1:16, 17)

<sup>16</sup> Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together.

For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.



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4.) Everything came from Him, but He came from nowhere because He has no beginning and no end (Ps. 90:2).

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (NIV)

Before the mountains were created, before you made the earth and the world, you are God, without beginning or end. (NLT)

5.) He is the “I AM” (Ex. 3:14),

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: “I AM has sent me to you.”

6.) The one of a kind (Is. 43:10, 11).

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed nor will there be one after me.” (NIV)

7.) Since all life comes from Him, He rightfully retains ultimate authority (1 Tim. 6:15)

“Which God will bring about in His own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”

8.) He will do what He pleases (Ps. 135:6).

“The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.”

9.) He needs counsel from no one, and no one qualifies to give Him counsel (Rom. 9:20).

“But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it “Why did you make me like this?” (NIV)

10.) The title “King of Kings” means just that. Even among kings, He is *The King*

(Ps. 47:6, 7).

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praise to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. (NIV)

11.) This Sovereign One does not make occasional raids into our lives and world events—rather, He is intimately involved in the life of each person

(Matt. 10:30)

“And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

12.) He rules the universe completely and perfectly (Is. 40:21–28).

Lord, why won’t this person forgive me?

Lord, why won’t this person apologize?

Lord, why did this have to happen?

Lord, why didn’t you step in and make people do what I want them to do?

Lord, why don’t you listen to me?

**To give away the role of punisher. To give away the role of being right.**

give up, surrender, hand over, abandon, renounce, resign, turn down, let go by, let pass



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1. Check to see if our desires are legitimate.

Psalm 139

<sup>14</sup> Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls us.\* Since we believe that Christ died for everyone, we also believe that we have all died to the old life we used to live. 2 Corinthians 5:14 (NLT)

2. Acknowledge the freedom of others. A/DA Control is an illusion. Freedom is reality.

Judges 17:6 "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Deut. 12:8)

Proverbs 12:15 "The way of the fool is right in his own eyes."

Psalm 36:1-4 The wicked do not fear the Lord.

3. Take your own freedom to choose who is in control very seriously.

2 Peter 2:19 You are a slave to whatever controls you.

4. Disengage from the control game.

a. Make room for lousy circumstances. (Reality check, letting go of the Ideals)

b. Remember that some people are afraid of growth. (Fear)

c. Some people are permanently unaware.

5. Admit how limited you are.

Proverbs 21:2 "Every way of man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart."

Job 38 & 39

*The Past, The Present, The Future (page 72 in Boundaries Face to Face)*

1. *Forgiveness has to do w/the past*

2. *Reconciliation has to do w/the present*

3. *Trust has to do w/the future*

See also 1 Chr. 29:11–13; Lam. 3:22, note; Rom. 11:33, 34; Eph. 1:11; 1 Tim. 6:15; notes on Attributes of God (Ex. 33; Deut. 4; 32; 2 Chr. 19; Job 42; Ps. 25; 90; 102; 119; Is. 6; 65; Jer. 23; Rom. 2; Eph. 1; 1 John 5); Authority (John 19);

## To Do's

### Preparing for the confrontation in 5 steps:

1. Establish you have constructive intentions. (Lord, you know my heart...Psalm 139)

Spend time in prayer. Organize you heart with the Lord. (How...read through Truth scriptures)

## TRUTH.

Saints should worship God in, John 4:24  
serve God in, Josh. 24:14; 1 Sam. 12:24  
walk before God in, 1 Kin. 2:4; 2 Kin. 20:3  
esteem, as inestimable, Prov. 23:23

love, Zech. 8:19  
rejoice in, 1 Cor. 13:6  
speak, to one another, Zech. 8:16; Eph. 4:25  
execute judgment with, Zech. 8:16

meditate upon, Phil. 4:8  
bind, about the neck, Prov. 3:3  
write, upon the tables of the heart, Prov. 3:3.  
The fruit of the Spirit is in, Eph. 5:9.



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approve themselves by, [2 Cor. 6:7, 8](#).  
Kings are preserved by, [Prov. 20:28](#).  
They who speak, show forth righteousness,  
[Prov. 12:17](#)  
are the delight of God, [Prov. 12:22](#).  
Is according to godliness, [Tit. 1:1](#)  
Is sanctifying, [John 17:17, 19](#)  
Is purifying, [1 Pet. 1:22](#)  
Is part of the Christian armor, [Eph. 6:14](#)  
Revealed abundantly to saints, [Jer. 33:6](#).  
Abides continually with saints, [2 John 2](#)  
Should be acknowledged, [2 Tim. 2:25](#)  
Should be believed, [2 Thess. 2:12, 13](#); [1 Tim. 4:3](#)  
Should be obeyed, [Rom. 2:8](#); [Gal. 3:1](#)  
Should be loved, [2 Thess. 2:10](#)  
Should be manifested, [2 Cor. 4:2](#)

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2. Formulate your thoughts. (Letter)

Get your thoughts organized. Write them out in a letter. (See worksheet)  
There should be NO mind reading expected in relationships, be specific.

Cover:

A summary of the good aspects of your history with the other person.  
A brief, factual summary of the circumstances that produced the conflict...clarify the problem.  
Stick with behaviors, not character traits.  
Your understanding of the legitimate aspects of the other person's perspective and feelings.  
A description of your feelings of hurt or anger or confusion without accusations...use "I" statements.  
A description of the constructive changes you would like to see in your relationship.  
A description of the adjustments you will make (if necessary) as part of the reconciliation process.

3. Set up a time to speak. (Stay away from 'We need to talk')

- A. Preserving everyone's dignity is your boundary.
- B. Stay away from special days or holidays.
- C. Bring a support person.
- D. Stick to the subject. (Bring your letter and read or make notes from your letter.)
- E. Acknowledge your anxiety, yet don't let it weigh you down.
- F. Be realistic. (You are not here to persuade or sell them your feelings.)
- G. Refrain from invalidating tones. No pleading, no condescension.
- H. Finish your explanation, then be quiet to allow time for absorption.

4. Listen to Counter-Confrontations

- A. Be prepared for the confrontation to be met with denial. What will your response be?
- B. Do not attempt to force agreement.
- C. ABSOLUTELY be neutral in your responses to their defensiveness.  
(Empathize with their feelings, but return to the issue. The enemy of transposition-blaming YOU for their behavior.)
- D. The more you defend, the more powerful the other person feels over you.**

5. Be prepared to live with the Consequences

- A. What's the best that could happen? (Thankful heart.)
- B. What's the worst that could happen? (Leaving it at the cross.)

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." Prov 13:12