**Sermon Title: The Priority of Christ in the New Man, Part 2**

**Sermon Text: Colossians 3:13**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to model the virtue of Biblical Forgiveness**

**Sermon Purpose: There are 4 aspects of Biblical Forgiveness to model.**

**Introduction:** **Matthew 18:21-35; Mark 11:25-26; Psalm 31:1**

Illustration: unforgiveness and poison

**II. The 2nd virtue is the forgiveness factor. V.13**

 A. The **briefing** for forgiveness as a virtue of the new man. V.13a

 The word’s bearing or accepting one another expresses the habitual manner in which believer’s exhibit the stated virtues. Both bearing and forgiveness pertains to interpersonal relationships in the body of Christ.

 Bearing with or accepting one another means “to endure” “to hold out” in spite of persecution, threats, injury, indifference, or complaints and not retaliate.

 **1 Corinthians 4:12** And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

 Court issues

 **1 Corinthians 6:7** Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?

 The idea is modeling the virtues expressed in verse 12 with each other and those outside the fellowship.

 The Greek word for forgiveness here (charizomenoi) literally means “to be gracious” and the text uses a reflexive pronoun, so that it literally reads “forgiving yourselves” among yourselves (added for emphasis).

 The church is to be a mutually forgiving gracious fellowship.

 **Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

 **2 Corinthians 2:6-7, 10** This punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority *is* sufficient for such a man, **7** so that, on the contrary, you *ought* rather to forgive and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. …**10** Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

 B. The **basis** for forgiveness as a virtue of the new man. V.13b

 “If someone has a complaint,” this phrase refers to times when someone is at fault because of sin, error or debt.

 It is the nature of the “old man” to hold grudges against those they think have wronged them. But it is the nature of the “new man” (those who are forgiven) by Christ, to forgive freely those who have committed offenses against us. “Send away, let go.”

 Yet forgiveness does not mean that the consequences of offenses are absolutely gone.

 (Ex. David, pregnant woman)

 Four Benefits of Forgiveness

 1. Forgiveness keeps **prayers** and **worship** from being hindered.

 **Mark 11:25** "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

 2. Forgiveness keeps us from seeking **vengeance**.

 **Romans 12:19** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

 3. Forgiveness covers **repented** sins.

 **1 Peter 4:8** And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

 4. Forgiveness is **unlimited** and frees you.

 (Illustration: woman, donkey, husband)

 C. The **benchmark** for forgiveness as a virtue of the new man. V.13c

 The benchmark by which we measure the act and heart of forgiveness is Jesus Christ Himself.

 **Luke 23:24** So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested.

 Just as Christ and God the Father has forgiven us, so must we as the chosen, holy and beloved must forgive. Believers are mandated to forgive, because they are forgiven. There must be a willingness to forgive, no matter what the struggle to forgive may be. We have been totally forgiven.

 **Colossians 1:14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

 **Colossians 2:13-14** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **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.

 D. The **blueprint** for forgiveness as a virtue of the new man. V.13d

 There are at least 5 motivations that influence the blueprint of forgiveness. To not do so is hypocrisy and evil. It is sin to hold grudges and withhold forgiveness when wronged or an offense is committed against you.

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

 **Ephesians 4:32** states it this way, “it is the relevance of Christ and His work on the cross that mandates, motivates, and models forgiveness, by the forgiven.”

 1. Motivation #1: The **mercy** of God.

 **Luke 6:36** "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

 2. Motivation #2: The necessity of forgiveness.

 **Mark 11:25** "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

 3. Motivation #3: The Father’s forgiveness of us. (Prodigal son)

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

 4. Motivation #4: The Son’s forgiveness of us. (**Colossians 3:13**)

 5. Motivation #5: The **fruitfulness** of the believer.

 **Genesis 45:5-11** "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** "For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. **7** "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **8** "So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. **9** "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him,`Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. **10** "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. **11** "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for *there are* still five years of famine."'

 **Romans 12:20** Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

 **Matthew 5:44** "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

 **2 Timothy 4:16** At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

 **Acts 7:60** Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

 6. Motivation #6: The **seeking** of forgiveness.

 **2 Corinthians 12:13** For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!