



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com  
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

Showing Love Through Forgiveness!

**Scripture:** Matthew 18:23-35; 1 John 4:7-15

In Bible times, serious consequences awaited those who could not pay their debts. A person lending money could seize the borrower who could not pay him back and force him or his family to work until the debt was paid. The debtor could also be thrown into prison, or his family could be sold into slavery to help pay off the debt. It was hoped that the debtor, which in prison, would pay the debt. If not, the debtor could remain in prison for life.

Because God has forgiven all our sins, we should not withhold forgiveness from others. The faults of our brothers and sisters are nothing compared to our sins which are as great debt of ten thousand talents. The Bible describes the person who does not forgive his brother's faults as a wicked servant who mistreated him. When you realized how completely Christ has forgiven us should produce a free and generous attitude of forgiveness toward others. When we do not forgive others, we are setting ourselves above Christ's law of love (Matthew 22:36-40). We show concentrate on all we can do to show our love for God and others.

We show our love to our brothers and sisters by forgiving them for any wrong doing. *"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins"* (1 Peter 4:8). We see in the parable in the unrighteous debtor, even though he was forgiven his debt and he did not show the same love that he received. Jesus is telling us, the same measure of forgiveness we were given that we should give it back to mankind. Moreover, *"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil"* (Luke 6:35).

The proof of God's love to mankind was when He sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. By doing that it made it possible to have access to Him, and it was done *"while we were yet sinners, Christ die for us"* (Romans 5:8). While we were yet sinners—these are amazing words. God sent His Son to die for us, not because we were good enough, but because He loved us so much, even before you turned to Him. Moreover, He had imparted His love to us by "shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 5:5) that we might live, because "He not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). **Jesus is waiting so that more sinners will repent and turn to Him.**

Imagine if God did this for us, took our debt and paid the price by shedding His blood on Calvary, how should you treat one another. Even while hanging on the cross said, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34). The giving of God's only begotten Son is the fullest proof of the infinite love of God and that all men can find full mercy. And *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost"* (Titus 3:5). All our sins, not merely some, are washed away. We have a new life through the Holy Ghost, and He continually renews our heart.

Paul told the church at Ephesus, *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"* (Ephesians 4:31-32). Our love for one another must be impartial, unselfish, sincere, abounding, fervent, and is proof of our discipleship. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11). *"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit"* (1 John 4:13). People of God we must remember love suffer long and we must do all things in love. Paul tells us, *"Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity"* (1 Corinthians 13:13). The person that did us wrong must, confess their sins and God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

When the disciples asked Christ to teach them to pray, in that prayer it says, *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:12, 14-15). Also, Mark tells us, *"When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses"* (Mark 11:25).

**People of God, let us show love through forgiveness!**