

SUMMER BAGGAGE



Bridge City
CHURCH

7/20/2025

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PART III: THE WEIGHT OF OFFENSE

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NLT). *And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

Forgiveness: An undeserved gift, that one person freely extends to another for the purpose of freeing the other person from his/her offense (canceling the debt) in response to the forgiveness that God first granted us.

Andy Stanley: *"In the shadow of my pain, forgiveness feels like a decision to reward my enemy. But in the shadow of the cross, forgiveness is simply a gift from one undeserving soul to another."*

REMEMBER: When I choose to forgive, I become a living echo of the gift of God's grace and forgiveness that I first received.

Colossians 3:13-14 (NLT). *Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.*

FORGIVENESS:

1. IS A [DECISION] THAT EXPRESSES THE HEART OF GOD.

What if forgiveness is more about a decision than a feeling?

Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT). *Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"*

Forgiveness expresses the heart of God because it echoes the Gospel.

Ephesians 1:7 (NLT). *He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*

2. IT IS A DEMONSTRATION OF [FAITH] THAT ACTIVATES WHAT WE BELIEVE.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT). *"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Forgiveness not only frees the person who offended us, it frees us.

"Not forgiving is like carrying a heavy suitcase and waiting for the other person to get a hernia."

3. IT IS A DAILY [SURRENDER] THAT RISES AS A PLEASING OFFERING TO GOD.

Perhaps one of the most spiritual acts we can do today is to decide to forgive those who have hurt us.

Matthew 6:9-12 (ESV). *Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

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