

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 47 (#912227)
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 47 – Forgiveness Is Our Response To God Not To Man

TUESDAY

OPEN

Forgiving is not easy, Beloved. It’s not easy because we want to punish. Because we want that person to pay for what they’ve done to us. We want them to feel our pain and we’re so afraid that if we forgive them that they’re going to get off scot-free and they’re not going to realize the awful damage that they have done. And that maybe so but that is not why you are to forgive. We’ll look at it today and it’s crucial; it’s a precept for life.

PART ONE

When you stop and think about it many books have been written on forgiveness, and it’s because forgiveness is a big issue. It’s a major issue in so many people’s lives. And you and I have to realize that forgiveness is our response to God not to our fellow man. Have you got that? I don’t want you to miss this precept for life. Forgiveness is our response to God. Forgiveness

is an act of obedience. Forgiveness is an act of faith. Forgiveness is a matter of walking in love as Christ loved us. Forgiveness is about you and God. It is not an issue between you and the other person because if you do not forgive them then you are walking in disobedience to God, and this is what we have to see, and this is what we have to understand. And this is why Paul brings this up in the letter to the Ephesians in the 4th chapter at the very end of that chapter and at the very beginning of the 1st verse of chapter 5, what we find is Paul telling the Ephesians that they must forgive and it is Paul speaking for God. I want you to listen to this, Beloved, because they are the words of God. My words cease right now so listen to the Word of God. **“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Ephesians 4:32-5:2)** The issue of forgiveness is are you going to love God and in loving God keep His commandments. If you’re going to love God and keep His commandments then you must obey Him and when He tells you that you are to forgive and when it says, **“...forgiving each other...”** in verse 32 of chapter 4 of Ephesians that’s an imperative. **(Ephesians 4:32b)** That is a command from God. It is not if you want to, it’s not if you feel like it, it is an order from headquarters. It is an order from the very throne of God. It is a divine decree issued to you as a child of God. So let’s look at this and I want you to look at it in the sense He calls us to forgive just as Christ forgave us. He calls us to forgive just as God loved us and so forgiveness and love are connected together and this is what we need to see. First of all look at verse 32 of chapter 4 of Ephesians. And it says, **“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, “just as”....” (Ephesians 4:32a)** And remember this is a key word that we’re marking. We’re learning how to observe the text so that we discover what does it say so that we accurately understand the words of God so that we interpret them and live in the light of

their meaning in a correct way and then we apply it. So the word forgiven it says, “...**Just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**” (Ephesians 4:32b) That word “forgiven” shocked me because I assumed that it was the same word that Jesus used for “forgive” in the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew chapter 6. And I assumed that it meant to send away. But that’s not the word that is used here that is translated “forgiveness.” It is the word and let me give it to you “c-h-a-r-i-z-o-m-a-i,” Now it has the word “c-h-a-r-i-s” in it. That’s the word for “grace” and he’s saying that I am to forgive you just as God in Christ poured out grace on me, poured out grace. So it means it was poured out on me and what is grace? It is unmerited unearned favor. He’s saying just as God gave you something that you did not earn, that you did not merit, that you did not deserve so you in turn are to forgive someone when they don’t earn it, when they don’t merit it, when they don’t deserve it. Now that throws a whole new light on forgiveness doesn’t it? It sure does because what it shows you is that the person that you’re forgiving does not have to be worthy. The person that you’re forgiving does not have to earn that forgiveness. It doesn’t matter what the person that you’re forgiving is or does or how they respond to you, you are to forgive them. And listen, Precious One, if you don’t forgive them you’re hurting yourself. If you don’t forgive them it is you that is going to reap the consequences not them and so they, in a sense, are gonna have two victories over you. The first victory when they hurt you and they shouldn’t have hurt you and the second victory they’re gonna have over you is in a sense to be separated from God. Not eternally separated from God. I’m not saying that but the fact that you won’t forgive them is going to damage you because it’s going to separate you. It’s gonna put a distance between you and God. It is the distance of disobedience. Unforgiveness is the distance of disobedience. So let’s go back and look at Matthew chapter 6 again. If you go to a church that has a set service, a church that is more traditional, you will find the Lord’s Prayer being recited every time usually in that church service. And the Lord’s Prayer is really a

way to pray. And in Matthew chapter 6 when they say, **“Lord, teach us to pray....” (Luke 11:1b)** In Luke He says, **“...When you pray...,” (Luke 11:2a)** pray this way. Well in Matthew He says, **“...When you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do....” (Matthew 6:7a)** I used to go into church as a child. I was raised in the church. I was baptized. I was confirmed. I would go into the church, as I walked down the aisle I would come beside the pew and I would genuflect because I thought I looked very good genuflecting. And it was all about me. I had a religion but not a relationship. And then I would slide into the pew and I would put down the kneeler and I would kneel and I would pray. And every Sunday we would pray, “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth” I could rattle it off. I could pray it with my eyes closed. I didn’t need a prayer book and yet it was a meaningless repetition. And He’s saying, [“When you pray don’t let your prayers be a meaningless repetition.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 6:7) He says, “Like the Gentiles.” Because when the Gentiles would pray to their God they’d just reiterate something over and over and over again. You can see people go through the motions when they really don’t honor God in the rest of their life. And so He’s saying, “Not like the Gentiles.” A Gentile is anybody that’s not a Jew. He says, **“...For they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray, then, in this way.” (Matthew 6:7b-9a)** So this is a way to pray. If you were to compare this with the passage in Luke it’s uh when they said to Jesus, **“...teach us to pray...,” (Luke 11:2a)** pray in this way. Well I have a book and it’s called “Lord, Teach Me To Pray in 28 Days” and it’s based on the Lord’s Prayer because these are topical index sentences that they would memorize that would provoke much deeper prayer in these areas. Well as they pray we come to in verse 11, this part of the prayer, **“And forgive us our debts...,”** our debts are what we owe someone, **“...as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)** Now if you

read that carefully and it’s not a meaningless repetition, it’s saying forgive us our debts “as.” It’s another “just as.” As we have forgiven already our debtors. “God, I’m asking You to forgive me in accordance with what I have done to others who have a debt against me.” Let’s go back to Matthew chapter 6. Yes we’re studying Ephesians 4 but we’re looking at forgiveness. And in Matthew chapter 6 after He gives the Lord’s Prayer then He says this. He’s going to explain forgiveness even more because it’s an issue. He says, **“For if you forgive others for their transgressions...,”** listen carefully, **“...your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But...,”** contrast, **“...if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”** (Matthew 6:14-15) Did you see that? Did you hear that? Did you see what He said to you? Wanta work your way out of it? Do you wanta say, “No no no, that’s not what He means. Surely He’ll give me forgiveness.” That’s not what He said. He said[if you don’t forgive others, I won’t forgive you.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 6:15) In other words you’re disobeying me. Do you see? Really changes it doesn’t it? Because I’m saying You forgive me based on my forgiveness of others and then He goes on to explain that and I’ll go on to explain that in just a minute.

PART TWO

When you forgive then you shut the door on anything that the enemy could bring against you because you have been obedient to God and that is why it is so crucial that you forgive. Forgiveness is not an issue between you and others. Forgiveness is your response to Me and I’m asking you and I’m commanding you to forgive others. You’ve got to forgive. So He’s saying if you will not do this, if you will not pray in this way, you can know that I will not forgive you. You need to get your act together. Now in Matthew chapter 18 because as I told you forgiveness is a big issue, later on in the book what He’s going to show us in Matthew 18 is an incident with Peter coming to the

Lord and saying, [“Okay, how often should I forgive?”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 18:21a) And Peter goes way beyond what the Pharisees and the Scribes and the Sadducees taught about forgiveness. So Peter’s being very generous and he said, [“You know, how many times should I forgive?”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 18:21a) **“Up to seven times?” (Matthew 18:21b)** Verse 22 of Matthew chapter 18, **“[And] Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”(Matthew 18:22)** Hey, that’s 490. Who is going to keep count? It says, **“For this reason...,”** now listen carefully, **“...the kingdom of heaven may be compared to....” (Matthew 18:23a)** In other words you wanta understand what heaven’s all about? It’s compared to this story. So listen carefully to the story. It says, **“...[It] may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. [And] When he had begun to settle them, one...owed him ten thousand talents [and] was brought to him.” (Matthew 18:23b-24)** Now ten thousand talents is 15 years wages and it says, **“But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. So the slave fell to the ground....” (Matthew 18:25-26a)** Now this is what the kingdom of heaven is all about. You owe a debt that you cannot pay. You fall to the ground and it says, **“...[And he] fell to the ground...,”** and he said, **“...[to] Have patience with me...I will repay...everything.” (Matthew 18:26)** Now God knows you cannot repay and so what does God do? He sees your heart. He sees that you see your debt and it says, **“And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.” (Matthew 18:27)** Here is God. God is showing you what He’s like. I’m a God of compassion. I am willing to forgive. And it says, **“But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii....” (Matthew 18:28a)** A denarii is a days wage. So this is just a small amount that he owes him. It’s a hundred days wages versus 15 years wages. **“...And he seized him and [he]**

began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ So his fellow slave fell to the ground....” just like he had done before his master, “...And [said,] ‘Have patience with me...I will repay you.’ But he was unwilling and [he] went and [he] threw [them] in prison until he should pay back [all that he owed.]” (Matthew 18:28b-30) There were people watching and listen, when you forgive there are people watching and you’re showing them the compassion of God. When you do not forgive there are people watching and they miss seeing Jesus Christ. And it says, “So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and [they] came and reported to [the] lord all that had happened. Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you....’” (Matthew 18:31-32a) Now watch what he’s saying. “...You wicked slave, I forgave you....,” he says, “...all that debt because you pleaded with me.” (Matthew 18:32) Simply because you asked. “Should...not also have had mercy...?” (Matthew 18:33a) Mercy is the ability to meet someone’s need when they have no way to have that need met. “Should you not...have...mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way....”(Matthew 18:33a) It’s a key phrase. I would circle it. “...That I had mercy on you? And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he [would] repay all that was owed....” (Matthew 18:33b-34) Now what’s the bottom line of this? It’s the words of Jesus. Listen carefully. “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from [his] heart.” (Matthew 18:35) Forgiveness, it’s commanded by God. So therefore it is an act of obedience or a refusal to obey which is disobedience, and if you refused to obey then God cannot bless you, Beloved. So when we go back to Ephesians I would get a pencil and I would write this in my Bible “Forgiveness is my response to God not my response to my fellow man.” He says, “...Be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ...loved you....” (Ephesians 5:1-2a) I have a letter here and it’s from a father of one of our staff. He says, “Dear Son, I’ve spent most of my

life looking back lamenting the disappointment I caused my parents while continuing to make the bad decisions of my life. When the real fire I should have been fighting was neglected. I am not trying to escape responsibility when I say this, but even though I knew right from wrong I was incredibly immature and naïve to the point of being incompetent. You have shown respect for me always and I deserve very little. With all the accomplishments you have received in your lifetime you could write a book. You’ve been willing to share these accomplishments with me as though I was somehow instrumental in your success and I would gladly accept that role. However we both know I contributed very little. In fact you did these things in spite of me not because of me. I never receive the condemnation I deserved from my mom years ago and I never got it from you either. I recently looked at a bunch of old pictures. Several were of you and I discovered something I never noticed before. The older ones were of a carefree kid standing by the mailbox or standing in front of the old barn without a care in the world. The latter ones reflected something different. Your eyes began to show anger and bitterness, subtle but irrepressible. The sweetness was drying up like a dessert mirage but it never totally left you. You as a young man that Satan so desperately wanted could not outrun the shadow of the cross indelibly stamped across your life by the relentless prayers of a grandmother you barely remember. Son, I ask to be relieved of the burden of debt by asking for forgiveness which I already receive but never quite got around to asking you for. One last thing. There was never a time and never will be that I didn’t love you. Dad.” O Precious One, you and I are commanded by God to forgive. It’s an act of obedience and you don’t want to walk in disobedience and you don’t wanna walk in disobedience because if you do then you’re going to stand before a holy God and you’re going to have to explain why their transgression against you was worse than your transgression against a holy, sinless God. It won’t hold up. So, Precious One, if you’re going to walk in that joy and in the peace and in that exuberance of obedience, you must

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forgive. You forgive “...**just as God in Christ has forgiven you.**”
(**Ephesians 4:32b**) You [love just as Jesus has loved you.] (PARAPHRASE,
Ephesians 5:2) and that means that love, “**Bears all things...hopes all
things, endures all things. Love never fails....**” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8a)
Love goes the extra mile. Love goes the way of the cross and all you say is,
“I will forgive” because, “[I’m] **crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;
yet not I, but Christ [lives] in me....**” (Galatians 2:20, KJV) And in the
name of Jesus, I forgive you.