

# ***Sunday Sermon Notes***

## ***"Forgiving Love"***

### **An "If, Then" I cannot ignore:**

*If* I do not forgive,

*Then* I will not be forgiven

*Forgiveness is not optional!*

### **But I don't want to do this!!!!**

I want justice

I want to get even

I want them to hurt

### **Reasons I need to forgive:**

Because I have been forgiven

Because my salvation depends on it

Because not doing so hurts me

Because forgiving makes me like Jesus

### **Forgiving, just as Jesus forgives me:**

Accept the cost for forgiveness

Initiate the process of forgiveness

Offer forgiveness sincerely

Bestow forgiveness readily

Set the offense aside permanently

### **I need the Spirit to enable me to:**

Give up the right to get even

Keep no record of wrongs

Speak well of the person who hurt me

Learn to trust again

### **The best reason of all to forgive *(John 20-21-23)***

My forgiveness may be what it takes  
to save someone else's life!

***I want to forgive like Jesus forgave me!***

# ***Digging Deeper***

## **Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion**

### **Reviewing the Sermon:**

How do you feel about the idea that forgiveness is not an option for the Christian? Why do you think Jesus makes such strong teaching about this?

Which reason for needing to forgive helps you the most to want to forgive? How much does it help to have so many reasons?

Which step of forgiveness helps you better to understand how to forgive?

Which of the things the Spirit needs to help us with is the one you most need?

How does knowing that through your forgiveness someone else may be saved affect your thinking about forgiveness?

### ***Bible Study: Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2***

#### ***Discussion Questions***

*(Remember that not all questions must be used)*

Why should the fact that we are all members of one body cause us to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully" to our neighbor?

What does Paul's teaching, "In your anger do not sin" imply about the fact that Christians do get angry. How does the principle that God does not command emotions, but He does command behavior help us to understand the relationship between anger and sin?

What are some ways you have been able to “not let the sun go down while you are still angry”? Why is this such a good opportunity for the devil to get a foothold on us?

Paul teaches progression from stealing to working to sharing. Why isn't it just enough for us to work?

What types of unwholesome talk do you think Paul has in mind in verse 29? How do we talk in such a way for “building others up according to their needs”? How does this benefit our listeners?

What behaviors do you think most grieve the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit seal us “for the day of redemption”?

How do you understand the relationship between “getting rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice” and Paul’s statement about anger in verse 26?

How does doing what is commanded in verse 32 help us to obey the command of verse 31?

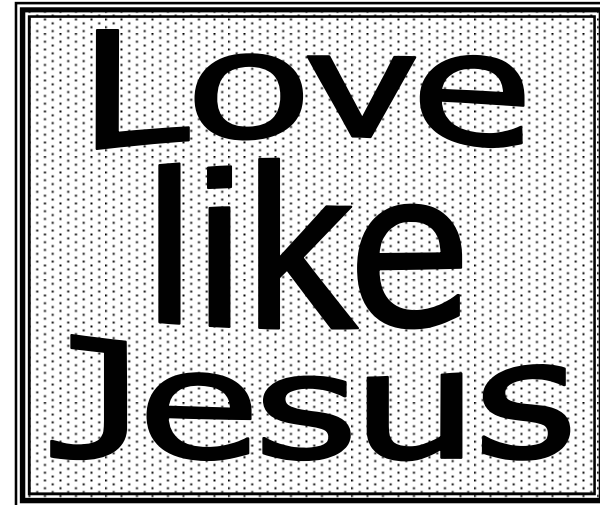
How does the fact that we are “dearly loved children” help us to be imitators of God? In what way are we to imitate God?

In what ways are we able to live a life of love, just like Jesus? Give some examples of how we might love like Jesus loves? What type of sacrifices must we make to do so?

**Prayer Time:**

Give the members of your group an opportunity to share situations they have either struggled with in the past or are struggling with now to forgive someone.

Spend time praying for each other to be able to forgive as Jesus has forgiven us.



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***Matthew 6:9-13***

***"Forgiving Love"***

**Pastor Philip C. Rogers**

**Middletown**

**Church of the Nazarene**

**Middletown, Indiana**

Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at  
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