

"The Forgiving Forgiven"

The Siamese twins of forgiveness:

Being forgiven of my sins

Being forgiving of other people's sins

Three paths toward bondage in other's sins:

The path of denial: secrets and lies

It didn't really happen

It really wasn't bad

It actually doesn't matter

The path of revenge: rage and retribution

I want justice

I want to get even

I want them to pay

The path of bitterness: resentment and hate

I will never forget

I will never let go

I will never trust

The only path to freedom from other's sins:

The path of forgiveness: letting go and letting God

I can be free of lies

I can be free of rage

I can be free of bitterness

Easier said than done!

"Father, forgive me, I cannot forgive" Cory Ten Boom

Forgiving at the foot of the Cross:

I am "crucified with Christ" who died on the cross to:

Love me and my enemy

Forgive me and my enemy

Live in me and my enemy

Transform me and my enemy

Forgiving is not just something I have to do (to have Jesus)

It is something I get to do (to be like Jesus)

Must Jesus bear the cross alone?

Galatians 2:20-21

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Romans 6:5-14

5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin- 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Matthew 6:9-15

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Colossians 3:12-14

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

NIV



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What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social networking service that allows you to share status updates with friends. It helps you share what you are thinking and doing with others. We use Twitter to send mobile updates from our services and enable you to interact with us during services. With Twitter, you can keep up with what's happening when you can't be here, and let us know what you are thinking when you are.

How does Twitter work?

When you send twitter an update, that status goes out to all your "followers." If you follow Middletownnaz, you will get our updates about the services either online or on your cell phone. When you reply to those messages, you send out a status update to your followers, including us.

How do I sign up?

Signing up is easy. Simply text "follow middletownnaz" (without the quotes) to 40404. If you have an account, you will become our follower and get our updates on your phone. If you don't, it will prompt you to create a new username. Just reply to that message with a username, and you're all set up.

How do I manage my account?

Go to <http://twitter.com> to set up your account and set options like protecting your status updates so only friends can see them. Just make sure you accept us as your friend!

How much does it cost?

Twitter is free, but standard text messaging rates apply, so make sure you have a plan that provides enough texts a month.

How do I stop getting updates?

Simply send "Off" (without the quotes) to 40404. You will have to send it twice to turn off all messages to your phone.

Crucified with Christ

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Colossians 3:12-14

"The Forgiving Forgiven"

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**Middletown
Church of the Nazarene
Middletown, Indiana**

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