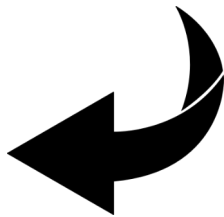


HUMILITY 102:

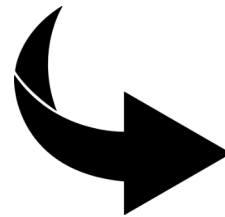
THE TRULY HUMBLE FORGIVE AS GOD FORGIVES



CHOOSE YOUR OWN WAY



FORGIVE AS GOD FORGAVE



... as God in Christ forgave you ...

(Ephesians 4:32b)

... as the Lord has forgiven you ...

(Colossians 3:13b)

OUTLINE ... The Truly Humble Forgive as God Forgives

1) The truly humble do not choose their own way but forgive as God forgives because that is what God tells us to do.

- (Ephesians 4:32 ESV) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**
- (Colossians 3:12–13 ESV) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

So how does God forgive?

2) The truly humble understand that God forgives totally, exhaustively and with great compassion and understanding.

When God forgives, he forgives.

- (Psalm 103:10–14 ESV) He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

A) He does not take into account what we deserve.

B) He does not measure out his forgiveness according to our sins and iniquities.

C) He forgives from his great, steadfast love.

D) He removes our transgressions to a humanly incalculable distance from us.

E) He forgives with fatherly compassion.

F) God forgives all our transgressions by canceling the debt.

- (Colossians 2:13–14 ESV) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

G) God blots out our transgressions based on who he is.

- (Isaiah 43:25 ESV) I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.
- (Hosea 9:9 ESV) They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.

H) Because he is merciful God forgives so thoroughly that he even removes the memory of our sins.

- (Hebrews 8:12 ESV) For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.
- (Hebrews 10:17 ESV) Then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

I) God forgives all the guilt of our sin and rebellion against him.

- (Jeremiah 33:8 ESV) I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

J) God forgives according to the riches of his grace—his power and authority as Sovereign Lord and God Most High.

- (Ephesians 1:7 ESV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the

forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace.

K) God forgives and cleanses us every time we confess our sins.

- (1 John 1:9 ESV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- (Luke 17:3–4 ESV) Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

3) The truly humble forgive like God forgives because they have been totally, exhaustively, compassionately and mercifully forgiven and they know it.

SINNER OR SON? SINNERS CHOOSE, SONS OBEY!

A) Sinners choose who they love and forgive.

- (Luke 6:32–34 NIV) If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.
- (Isaiah 66:3b ESV) These have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations.

B) Sons of the Most High choose the way of the Most High.

- (Luke 6:35–36 NIV) But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

SIDEBAR: The truly humble understand the process and the blessing of choosing the way of God ...

The truly humble anticipate the fruit of the work of God deep within our hearts and minds when we choose the way of the Most High.

*****THREE EXAMPLES of the process and the blessing of choosing the way of God ...**

- i) The process of rejoicing with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory ... (1 Peter 1:6–8 ESV)** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.
 - (Romans 15:13 ESV) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
- ii) The process of the Holy Spirit of God pouring the love of God into our hearts ... (Romans 5:1–5 ESV)** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- iii) The process of the peace of God guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus ... (Philippians 4:4–7 ESV)** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Choosing the way of God is choosing to walk by, and be led by, the Spirit of God.

The process of the fruit of the Spirit ... (Galatians 5:16, 18, 22-23 ESV) But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ... But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law. ... But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

C) The truly humble know the process and have tasted the great reward for living as the sons of the Most High.

The truly humble have caught a glimpse of their new lives as sons of the Most High. They have experienced the great joy that even while still on this earth, even with fallen minds and bodies, the redeemed of God are still able to have moments of recognition ... a passing look at who we truly are in Christ—sons of the Most High.

So for the truly humble there is no going back to choosing our own way, there is really no choice, no comparison, after tasting the goodness of the Lord.

- (Psalm 34:8 ESV) Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

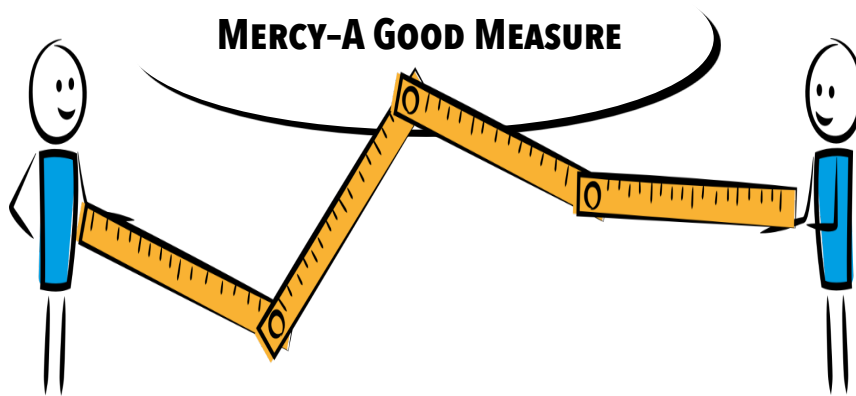
Those who have been totally, exhaustively, compassionately and mercifully forgiven by the Most High have come to realize that it's no contest between God's forgiveness and human ideas for forgiveness.

CONCLUSION: The truly humble have come to love mercy. It is their new measure for living.

- (Luke 6:37–38 NIV) Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
- (Micah 6:8 NLT) ... O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

The truly humble know and live in the great blessing of mercy. Mercy is now their measure for relating to the people around them, and they want nothing else for themselves or anyone.

- (Matthew 5:7 ESV) Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.



- (Luke 6:38b NIV) A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. FOR WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU.