

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 3:8-12
Lesson #14
Forgiveness
11/08/2020



1 Peter

Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a fallen world



1 Peter 2:13

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to **every** human institution."

Nero

Submitting to Magistrates	Submitting to Masters	Submitting to Mates	Submitting to Mercy
2:13-17	2:18-25	3:1-7	3:8-12

1 Peter 2:18

"Slaves be submissive to masters...who are **unreasonable**."

1 Peter 3:1

"wives, be submissive to your own husbands ... even if any of them are **disobedient** to the word."

SUBMISSION to human institutions inevitably involves injustice.

2

The "Way of the Cross" is the way of **GRACE** in the face of **INJUSTICE**



Submitting to Magistrates	Submitting to Masters	Submitting to Mates	Submitting to Mercy
2:13-17	2:18-25	3:1-7	3:8-12

1 Corinthians 1:18

"For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing **foolishness**, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**."

Mark 8:34

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."

3

1 Peter 3

8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

(application)

9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but **giving a blessing instead**; for you were called for the very purpose that you might **inherit a blessing**.

(Psalm 34:12-16)

10 For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days **refrain his tongue** from evil and his lips from speaking guile. 11 And let him **turn away from evil and do good**; let him **seek peace and pursue it**. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

4

Psalm 34

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; how **blessed** is the man who takes refuge in Him! 9 Fear the Lord, you His saints; for to those who **fear** Him there is no lack of *anything*. 10 The young lions do without and suffer hunger; but they who **seek** the Lord will not **lack any good thing**. 11 Come, you children, **listen** to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who is the person who desires life and loves *length of* days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

5



Responses to injustice

- Revenge
- Reparations
- Forbearance

- **Blessing**
(so as to inherit a blessing)



6

Matthew 5

"43 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 **But I say to you, 'love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you'** 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? 47 And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."



Jesus teaches the "way of the Cross".

7

Romans 5

"6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But **God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**"

Jesus shows the "way of the Cross".

1 John 4:11

"If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

8



Philippians 2

"5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,** 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,** 7 **but emptied Himself,** taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**"

Jesus calls us to live the Way of the Cross from the inside out

9



The Way of the Cross is the mark of a Christian alien.

- **Submission** (weakness)
- **Suffering** (failure)
- **Grace** (suffering injustice)



Not the world's idea of a 'good thing'.

10



America is not God's "second home on earth".

We are aliens in America and as Americans.

John 18:36

"Jesus answered, **"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting,** that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

John 16:33

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation,** but take courage; I have overcome the world."

11

Matthew 18

"21 Then Peter came and said to Him, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' 22 Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 And when he had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 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. 26 The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.' 27 And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.'"

12

Matthew 18

"28 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' 29 So his fellow slave fell down and began to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' 30 He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. 33 Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?' 34 And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.'"

13

Some observations

- The context - The question is asked - **How many times are we to forgive the unrepentant offender?**
- Jesus is not addressing the offender's heart, but the **offended's heart**.
- Does forgiveness assume the offender's repentance? **Rom.5:6-8**
- God's grace to us should **inspire** our grace to others.
- It is possible to receive God's grace **and yet not give it to others**.

14

- Jesus appeals to **cognitive (logic) not emotional (feelings)**.
- This teaching is **repeated** often in the New Testament.

Prov. 24:17
Matt. 5:39-48; 6:12-15
Luke 6:35-37; 17:3-4
Rom. 12:14-21

1 Cor. 4:12-13
Eph. 4:32
Col. 3:13
1 Pet. 3:9

- Forgiveness involves **"absorbing the debt", suffering the loss**.
- This passage is not the only point but it is the **FIRST point** to be made about forgiving.

15

Bitterness is like drinking poison and expecting the one who has hurt me to die.

Bitterness is a testimony to the Image of God in the human soul crying out to God for Christ.

If they're the one with the problem, why am I the one with the pain?



Grace is a testimony to the Word and Way of the Cross.

16

"The three things I cannot change are the past, the truth, and you."

Anne Lamott



17

1 Corinthians 13

“⁴ Love is **patient**, love is **kind**, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not **seek its own**, is not **provoked**, does not **take into account a wrong suffered**, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**”

**Note that love is
a response to injustice,
not just a restoration of justice.**

18

Forgiving the unrepentant?

- **Reconciliation (not forgiveness) requires closure on both sides of a conflict.**
- **Propitiation** - The substitutionary sacrifice of Christ fully satisfies the demands of a holy God, and it invites the faith (repentance) of the sinner so as to receive the blessings of Christ's sacrifice.

1 John 2:2

“and he himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

19

When do I know I have forgiven?

- **I accept closure** without demanding justice.
- **I see beyond my pain** to the Way of the Cross.
- **I exercise my freedom to choose** to forgive and love.
- **I am able to bless** those that don't deserve it.

20

What can I do to change?

1. **Take my baptism seriously** - It's not all about me and this world anymore.
2. **See the big picture** - aliens, injustice, the Way of the Cross, expectations.
3. **Commit to walk in spiritual power** - forgiving is a choice not a feeling.
4. **Pray to see and walk in faith** - suffer the loss, be a blessing.

21

**If you want peace,
seek justice!**

But do it  **GOD'S WAY!**

22

**Injustice brings
an opportunity
for insight, being
a blessing, and
getting one.**

23