

The Princess Bride Problem with Forgiveness

Finding Forgiveness Series Week 3

April 19, 2015

ABBREVIATED PRINCESS BRIDE CLIP BEFORE I GET UP: SCENE IS BATTLE OF WITS AND BOTH POISONED CUPS

Perhaps one of the greatest movies of all time! We'll come back to that in just a minute but in the mean time

Welcome/intro

This is week three in our series called "Finding Forgiveness"

The idea being that in many of our lives one of the most defining moments is either some mistake we made that we can't quite forgive ourselves for

OR something terrible someone else did to us that we can't quite forgive them for—and in some cases we're not even sure that we WANT to forgive or that we SHOULD forgive

And what happens with us as we start to talk about forgiveness here and in our small groups

is like kicking over rocks in our lives and finding all these squiggly things underneath

I'm getting all kinds of emails from people struggling with their specific situations and from small group leaders talking about the issues that talking about forgiveness raises

This is hard stuff, isn't it?

So here's what we're going to do in the next couple of weeks.

This week we're going to talk about the real power for forgiveness, where does the power to forgive come from, especially in those places where we've been deeply hurt

And then next week we're going to talk about how to have the hard conversation with someone who has hurt you.

Jesus talks about how to have healthy confrontation when someone sins against us and hurts us, so we're going to talk about that

how to have hard conversations with people who sin against us

And then, as a kind of clean-up to this series, the next week we're going to have an open Q&A where you can either write in or text in your questions about forgiveness and I'll do the best I can to answer them

never done this before, if it's a train-wreck we might not ever do it again!

But I want this to be as helpful as it can possibly be, so come in two weeks with your questions and with whatever I've left un-covered and we'll try to clean it all up as best we can!

Now, given that there's often so much more to be said and dealt with and nuances and steps in all of this than we can cover on Sunday mornings

I want to again strongly recommend that if you've got a situation where you're just stuck and can't figure out how to move on, that you check out our book table and the two books that are available to go along with this series—"The Art of Forgiving" is a great step-by-step book to walk you through how to forgive that person and "Beyond Boundaries" is a great help for how to trust again after you've been burned

Hopefully between what we do here on Sunday mornings and the books we have available for you, you can make some headway into whatever your particular situation is

Last week we took a pass at how God's mercy poured out on us compels us to then turn around and forgive other people

This week, we're going to take another pass at how the Scriptures talk about the power for forgiveness and where the power to forgive that person that you can't seem to ever forgive might come from

Put another way, we're going to talk about how Jesus helps to solve the Princess Bride problem that we just saw the clip of ***[PPT: Screenshot of scene with two cups between the two men]***

Proverb that says that holding onto un-forgiveness is like drinking a cup of poison in the hopes that the other person would die. ***[PPT: insert "Unforgiveness" over one of the cups]***

Un-forgiveness and the resentment and hostility that it inflicts on US as we hold onto it is EXTREMELY damaging—this little proverb is true!

But there's another problem on the other side of it that we have to deal with today—there's a problem with forgiveness as well, at least if it's all on us to produce it.

And that is that when people hurt us or sin against us, that's toxic. It deposits this toxin into our hearts and minds and lives

And what forgiveness demands of us is that we ABSORB that toxin rather than get revenge or hold onto anger and rage and spite [**PPT: "Forgiveness" over other cup**]

And if we spend our whole lives just absorbing and absorbing and absorbing and forgiving and forgiving and forgiving

What that means is all that toxic waste is buried in our hearts and in our lives
and sometimes you'll find people who wake up after decades of being generous hearted forgivers

And they realize that they've got all this anger and hostility and rage because they've absorbed all this sin in an effort to be nice and forgiving to people!

So what that means is that when someone sins against us, there are two cups
one called unforgiveness, and that's full of poison and it's toxic to us
And the other cup is called forgiveness, which is ALSO full of poison and toxic to us [**PPT: "Poison in Both Cups!" over other cup**]

[This won't be necessary if we've done the bumper video as planned:

*Which of course brings us to the cult classic movie "The Princess Bride."
Growing up, I only saw this movie two or three times, which put me on the low end of things for most of my friends.*

If you haven't seen it, it's a campy, off-beat, hilarious, random, and intentionally over-dramatic movie

And in this famous scene, the masked man named Wesley challenges the little bald guy named Vizzini to a battle of wits

*Wesley claims to have put poison in one glass of wine and he invites Vizzini to choose which glass he will drink out of
whoever drinks the poison dies and the other person gets the princess*

After a hilarious and rambling 3 minute dialogue, Vizzini attempts to play a trick on Wesley and swap the cups when he's not looking, then drinks the cup right in front of him

While Wesley drinks the cup right in front of him

Vizzini laughs a maniacal laugh, thinking that he has just tricked and bested Wesley in the battle of wits

Only to then die instantly as the poison kills him.

Wesley then discloses to the princess that BOTH cups were poisoned and that he'd spent the last several years building up immunity to the poison]

Today we're going to deal with the fact that BOTH cups are poisoned!

Un-forgiveness is poison and death to us while at the same time forgiveness means absorbing all this pain and sin and other toxic stuff against us which is ALSO poison.

And so if it's just left to us to drink from either one of these cups, we're pretty much dead.

But today we're going to celebrate the fact that Jesus has solved our Princess Bride problem

he's the one that has the power to absorb the poison and toxicity of the wrongs done against us

And that the person that you can't forgive, struggle to forgive, just can't even imagine forgiving—that situation where you just can't find it in you to drum up forgiveness for that person?

The good news is, you don't have to do the drumming up.

You don't have to do the forgiving, because a better forgiveness than yours has already been secured and offered and is available to us in such a way

That instead of US absorbing the poison involved in EITHER forgiveness or un-forgiveness

Jesus himself absorbs the poison involved in FORGIVENESS for us—because of Jesus, it is finally safe and healthy to do the hard work of forgiveness

And there is a greater power available than just your willpower that has already generated forgiveness and is ready to make that forgiveness available through you.

We're going to look at a couple of little verses in the Bible that have become total game-changers for me when it comes to forgiveness.

Turn with me to Colossians 1—if you're new to the Bible, it's broken up into two parts, the first 2/3 of it is what God did before Jesus in the nation of Israel especially, that's called the Old Testament

And the last about 1/3 of it is the story of Jesus and what happened after his life, death, and resurrection—that's called the New Testament

And much of the New Testament is made up of letters written to new Jesus-followers to help encourage them and instruct them on how to live out their new-found faith

Colossians is one of those letters written by Paul who wrote most of the letters that make up our New Testament

And in Colossians 1, Paul starts with this magnificent hymn about Jesus that is about as rigorous and dense and incredible theologically complex and sophisticated as any of the writings in the whole Bible

And as he starts to wind down this incredibly rich and sophisticated reflection on Christ, he writes these words:

16 For in him [Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him....19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. -Colossians 1:16, 19-20

If you had siblings you likely had an occasional fight or two with them growing up.

My brother is about 16 months younger than I am and growing up as kids we had our fair share of fights that sometimes got a little rough

And sometimes my brother would do something wrong to me and my mom or my dad would need to step in because it was just escalating

And occasionally how it would play out would be that a conversation would happen privately between my brother and one of my parents about what he had done to me and maybe started rough and angry

but eventually it would warm up

and sometimes they'd come out of their little meeting all buddy buddy and laughing like everything was okay

Meanwhile I'm outside the room or downstairs or whatever, still fuming about what he'd done and wanting bloody revenge!

It was all well and good that they were all warm and fuzzy between the two of them, but what about me, right? I was the one who was wronged in this situation!

Here in this passage, Paul is unpacking the dizzying idea that in Jesus Christ, God has ALREADY reconciled to himself ALL THINGS [PPT: BOX]

That in keeping with the biblical understanding of how our sin and mistakes impact our relationship with God, Jesus has died as the perfect sacrifice to atone for our sins, to reconcile us to God and with God

The Jesus project is all about making peace through his blood sacrifice as all that we've ever done wrong gets put on HIM so that we might be RECONCILED to God

Now where this gets a little strange but also very helpful and important is this: much of our sin is against one another, not only directly against God, right?

When we lie, gossip, lust, steal, hate, murder, cheat, dishonor one another those are almost always sins against OTHER PEOPLE

When people lie to YOU, they're sinning against YOU, right? I mean God's around somewhere, but you're the one who's hurt, right?

But what the Scriptures are telling us is that Jesus goes to the cross to forgive THOSE SINS too

that just like my situation with my brother, the parent has forgiven the child and reconciled with the child even though it looks like the conflict is primarily between me and him!

What Paul writes in the first part of the passage we looked at frames all of this up for us: everything that was created, including you and me, was created by Jesus and for Jesus—he owns ALL of it

Every single thing and every single person is his.

And so God not only has the authority to hold us accountable for how we treat one another, which he will and he does

He also has the authority to FORGIVE us for how we treat one another because when we sin against one another, we sin against him

And so Jesus comes and as the lamb of God he takes away the sins of the entire world—Jesus really has reconciled ALL THINGS and all people to himself through his own work on the cross **[PPT Box here]**

Last week remember we said that forgiveness was the first step and then reconciliation was the subsequent step? Two distinct things, right?

But forgiveness has to come first otherwise REAL and TRUE reconciliation cannot happen

If we have a fight and I wrong you somehow

before you can come to me and talk about us being reconciled you have FIRST do the difficult heart work of forgiving me, right?

If I hurt you somehow, the first step is for you to work through the process of forgiveness in your own heart

AND THEN we might be able to move on towards the work of reconciliation

In the passage we're reading today, Paul is declaring that the great, prior work of FORGIVENESS for all people is already secured and finished by Jesus

And that in Jesus, God is reconciling and offering reconciliation to every single man, woman, and child on this planet because the forgiveness piece of it is already accomplished!

INCLUDING for those who are currently rejecting it, un-interested in it, hate the thought of it

every single person in the cosmos has ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN by Jesus
It is just a matter of us accepting it or not.

As CS Lewis says somewhere "from God's side, the dispute between God and humans is over! God stands ready to reconcile because forgiveness has already been secured by Jesus!"

This huge forgiveness work done for all people includes forgiveness for the sins that WE commit against other people

AND-- here's where it gets a little more personal—and his forgiveness to all people includes every sin that anyone has ever been committed against you!

And so we start this morning with ***the "bad news:" that person that you can't stand and that you cannot ever possibly forgive IS ALREADY FORGIVEN IN CHRIST***

We get a little territorial about our pain, don't we? If we're the victim, if we've been wronged, we feel that gives us leverage to do or say or think all sorts of things

We get protective and defensive over our right to be angry and bitter if we've been wronged

But Jesus says that no matter what anyone else did to you, he is the one that created them and you and he has the authority in this dispute to declare forgiveness to the guilty party

Question one for each of us this morning is ***are we willing to accept and embrace Jesus' authority and already-forgiveness towards those who have hurt us?***

There's going to be something very GOOD in it for us here in a bit, but first we've got to let go of some of our territorialism when it comes to the pain inflicted on us in the past

Some of us are here trying to figure out what we think about this whole Jesus thing and we're glad you're here and maybe this sounds crazy

But think of it this way: if you created or built anything—your own car, your own model airplane, your own house

If I came along and did damage to it, then my sin is against you as the one who made it first and foremost.

If Jesus is the one through whom all things were created, if every person you'll ever meet or see is his handiwork

then any sin or damage done against them is a dishonor to the one who created them

So the first place where we start is that Jesus has already forgiven the person you can't seem to forgive.

Which might feel like you get kicked to the curb in all of this and your feelings or experiences get discounted or like you're getting steamrolled in this process

EXCEPT that there's one more step that the Scriptures take that is GREAT NEWS and that solves our Princess Bride problem around forgiveness.

Not only has Jesus already forgiven all the sins that have ever been committed against you

But a few verses after what we just read in Colossians Paul writes this:

...the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
-Colossians 1:27

Quick little poll, anyone else a huge Krispy Kreme doughnut fan? I love me some Krispy Kremes—good and good for you, as I like to say.

My absolute favs are these: chocolate iced cream filled.

Because doughnuts are great, and chocolate is great, but when you take something as great as chocolate covered donuts and then you fill them with this rich sugary cream

It is perfection in a box—perhaps alongside a heart-attack in a box as well.

The Scriptures declare that humans are made in God's image—beloved image bearers, all of us

But when we come to faith in Christ, the Scriptures declare that we are then FILLED with Christ, that Christ in us is our hope of glory [**PPT BOX HERE**]

that being filled and UNITED with Jesus is what secures our hope of glory

Jesus in us will live in glory forever, and those of us who are united with Christ will share in his glory forever and ever

These doughnuts are generously filled with delicious sugary cream that take a regular donut and make them infinitely more wonderful and powerful and good!

To be a Christian is to be filled with Christ, this inner power that will over time and into eternity make YOU infinitely more wonderful, powerful and GOOD!

So here's where the news gets good about Jesus' forgiveness of all your enemies and those who have done you wrong. [PPT]

Jesus has forgiven and reconciled all people to himself
and after he does that and when we accept him, that same Jesus comes to live inside of each of us, filling us with his own glory and his power [PPT]

And so when someone sins against us, the power to forgive that person is not in our own strength or our own efforts
not about us drumming up and staining and striving to create forgiveness on our own

The power to forgive that person is in Christ Jesus, the one who has already forgiven him and who already dwells in us.

I'm going to mix this illustration, let's see if it works—hang with me

Remember the cream-filled donut is like you filled with Jesus Christ once you accept and follow him?

Well, it's like you're the donut, except when Jesus sets up shop inside of our lives instead of cream that's filling us it's this giant sin SPONGE has set up shop within each of His people [**PULL SPONGE OUT HERE—BIG ONE NOT CUT ONE**]

It doesn't taste as good, but here's what that means and why it's good news.

And every single time someone sins against us, deposits something toxic into our hearts and into our lives

Jesus pipes up and says, "I'll absorb that! I'll clean that mess up! I got that one! I paid for that already!"

That sin against you—that's toxic for you, that will destroy you, don't let that float around in your heart or mind, I've absorbed that one already!"

Let me take that sin on myself, I saw that 2,000 years ago and I've forgiven that already" JESUS has ABSORBED any and all sins against you and me in his death on the cross that reconciles us to himself

AND, AND AND here's more good news—you don't know if you can forgive them? That's okay—forgiveness doesn't start with you, it starts with me.

I've already forgiven them and I live inside of you. And so here's the good news:
you don't have to generate forgiveness, you just have to demonstrate forgiveness.

You don't have to generate forgiveness, you don't have to drum it up, try to work harder to squeeze it out of you or figure out a way to do it

You just have to cooperate and participate with Jesus, access Jesus' forgiveness that already resides in you
to LET HIM extend His perfected forgiveness THROUGH you.

Forgiveness is both toxic and exhausting! And we know we need to do it or should do it and so we try to get to work doing it

But what if the power for forgiveness DOESN'T START WITH YOU!?!

What if the real power for forgiveness is the fact that Jesus IN YOU has already forgiven them
and so what we do is COOPERATE, AGREE WITH, SUBMIT TO, EMBRACE this larger, more wonderful reality

I worked with college students for a long time and you had to regularly work in pizza illustrations, so here goes one:

We read in the Scriptures that we have to deliver the pizza of forgiveness to those who sin against us and hurt us

So someone sins against us, we know we have to forgive them
And so what we do is go to work in the kitchen trying to make forgiveness, trying to create it from scratch
gotta' forgive, gotta forgive, gotta forgive, we're slaving away in the kitchen, trying to make this pizza of forgiveness

And almost all of us at some point get to be terrible forgiveness cooks—almost all of us at some point struggle with the burden of feeling like we have to figure out a way to make this forgiveness pizza.

But what Christ has done is already bake the perfect forgiveness pizza—Jesus himself does the hard part and hard work of forgiveness
It's just OUR job to deliver it, it's already done, it's already cooked and ready and waiting
We don't MAKE forgiveness, we just DELIVER forgiveness

Our job in forgiveness in this way of approaching it is less about striving and more about submitting and receiving

It's less about scraping it all together and more relenting and allowing Christ's forgiveness to flow in us and through us to the other person

Sometimes we're told that Christ forgave so much that we should be just like him and also forgive, that Jesus is the perfect MODEL of forgiveness

Which of course he IS, but sometimes that feels like it just adds feeling guilty onto the problem we're having of not being able to forgive someone!

But what if the whole point is that he's way MORE than just simply a model to follow?

What if Jesus is not only model of perfect forgiveness but the POWER for perfect forgiveness, the MEANS for perfect forgiveness?

What if Jesus Christ in you is the powerful sin-absorbing, forgiving sponge who takes on all the pain and toxicity that forgiveness requires

And then he says to you and to me, "I've already forgiven them for what they did to you, all you have to do is allow that forgiveness to be expressed THROUGH you."

If our work is not to GENERATE forgiveness but instead to DEMONSTRATE forgiveness

Then there's still a work to do, right? We have to let go of the toxicity of unforgiveness. We have to let go of our desire for revenge and our hatred

We still have to figure out how to relate wisely and well towards that person, it might require a hard conversation with them, it certainly requires us dealing with the reality of the pain that they've caused us

But demonstrating and participating in forgiveness rather than having to generate it and drum it all up is a very different kind of work and different kind of energy

And if Christ really has reconciled all things, forgiven all people and taken away the sins of the entire world

what that means is that he's solved the Princess Bride cup problem--there's now finally one cup that's safe to drink.

Jesus inserted HIS cross into that forgiveness cup, absorbed all the poison that's in there, and has made it the ONE cup that's now safe to drink

That the poison that's in the forgiveness cup can be absorbed not by us and our spiritual metabolism or in our own abilities and flesh

But because Jesus Christ is in us, and in him is all the power to absorb all the wrongs ever done to us, all the toxicity, all the pain

And then the power of Christ in us is available to extend perfect forgiveness to those who have hurt us.

Underneath your seats is a little piece of sponge—dig that out for me right now.

This is your take-home today, a tangible picture of the forgiveness that Jesus wants to work out in you and through you.

That he is the one who absorbs the toxicity of all the sin and pain done to you and against you

And a tangible reminder to be people who participate in his mission of absorbing the mess that sin makes everywhere we go

A couple take-home questions for us this week—these first two are things we have to do in our INTERNAL worlds, between you and God

1. Have you accepted Jesus' offer to absorb your sin?

Some of you are CHURCHED: you've grown up in some sort of church tradition where you basically went through the motions but maybe it never really meant all that much to you.

Maybe you never really understood people who got all worked up about religion or church-stuff. To you it was all just empty ritual or even just a nice ritual but never all that personal.

The offer to you this morning is to make it personal. Jesus offers you—you personally—the gift of forgiving, absorbing every messed up, wrong thing you've ever said, thought, or done.

To absorb your brokenness and sin and to give you his life in exchange.

This morning maybe some of you are ready to move past empty religion into genuine Christianity, a real Christ-centered life

Some of you are CHRISTIANS, made a definite decision to follow Jesus, but there's stuff tripping you up, right? Shame and guilt are still at work in our lives because we forget the gospel all the time.

And you need to know TODAY that Jesus forgives you for that area or that place where you can't seem to get a hold of it for yourself

My friends, if you're in Christ today—he has absorbed all your sins.

Nothing you have ever done has the last word on you—to be a Christian means that JESUS has the last word on you

And his word to you? Forgiveness. Grace. Life. Be free.

Others of you have never been to church, this is your first experience with Jesus or Christians all together talking about forgiveness, worshipping, all that stuff.

But you're here this morning and maybe you're feeling like this is reality and it's what you need, it's exactly what you need.

The offer this morning is to you: Jesus has already taken away all your sin, he invites you into right relationship with the Father. Come home.

For all of us this morning, Jesus is saying "I TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD" including what you've done AND what's been done to you

Question for some of you this morning who are holding on to some serious anger and un-forgiveness:

2. ARE YOU WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE/participate in JESUS' FORGIVENESS OF THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU?

And by demonstrate, I don't mean it has to be a big public scene, again, this is mostly happening between you and God, you're just participating in what God has done

You see, un-forgiveness is toxic.

And this morning, right here, Jesus has the joyful audacity to say to you and to me: "I know that person hurt you, damaged you, sinned against you, but I've already forgiven them.

And the only way you'll ever be free of that person is if you willingly embrace that forgiveness;

let me in you forgive them in your heart; you just embrace it, demonstrate it, participate in it, not generate it.

You don't have to take the first step to forgive that person. I know you can't. I can. I already have. Let me do it in your and for you and lead you into a path of forgiveness."

For some of you, your entire life is riding on the question of what will you do with the pain caused by someone else.

You can either be enslaved to that person for the rest of your life or this morning, right here and right now, Jesus is inviting you to the harder, richer path of true life and real freedom: forgiveness.

Let me give you 3 more specific steps to do this:

1. Recognize Reality: Jesus has forgiven all things

The first step is to recognize that Jesus has reconciled all things and that means he's forgiven the person who has sinned against you for what they did to you—

That what we've talked about today is just true

2. Embrace Reality: this is good news

We can recognize reality and not like it very much, can't we? Happens all the time, and it's likely to happen to us as we talk about something as deep and personal as forgiveness

Here we're moving beyond a cognitive, grudging or even angry recognition that Jesus has forgiven the person who hurt us

We accept it and embrace it as good news.

This happens in prayer: Jesus, I acknowledge that you've forgiven this person, that you have the authority in my dispute with this person to do so

and I am willing to receive that as good news—you've forgiven their sin, which helps me to be able to forgive and un-hook from this person

3. Participate in Reality: I want to live into this

Here we actually do it—again this starts in prayer: Lord, I am glad to participate in your forgiveness extended to this person

I relent, submit, allow you in me to absorb the sin against me and for your forgiveness power to flow through me to this person

We talked last week that forgiveness isn't excusing—it counts the debt owed and then it cancels it

So feel free to count up with Jesus all the ways that they've sinned against you
Jesus in you is NOT in denial about how bad they've wronged you

What he has done is he's counted up all their debts and all their mistakes and all their sins and he has forgiven them

Here, we are simply releasing our striving and our hold on unforgiveness and our territorialism around our pain

And allowing Jesus in us to forgive this person in us and through us.

That might then lead to a conversation that you need to have with someone, we'll come back to that next week

But to demonstrate not generate forgiveness, we

- recognize the reality of Christ's forgiveness extended to everyone
- we embrace that reality and are grateful for it
- and then we participate in it, allowing that forgiveness to flow through us and absorb the sin against us and bless us with the freedom of forgiveness.

Friends, can you imagine if we let Jesus in us do this work?

Can you imagine what kind of a difference it would make in your life, right now, if you accepted the challenge inherent in these two applications
if you left here not ever again feeling guilty or ashamed about something you've done, and you left here totally free from any anger or bitterness or hostility toward anyone else who's ever hurt you?

One more thing for us to consider as we close, this is the most externally focused step of all

Because Jesus calls us to be a church that's on mission together.

Because in my house, the sponge sits on the sink and I sometimes am called to put it to use to clean up spills that I didn't do, right?

This world, is a messy, spilled-all-over kind of a place. There are relational messes in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our work-places

Everywhere we go, there are relational spills and messes that need to be cleaned up that we didn't do or were only marginally involved or around in

And SOMETIMES, not always, but sometimes, Christ in us is going to call us to step into a mess that is not of our making

He's going to say to you and to me, "I'm in you not just for your sake but for the sake of all the people that you come in contact with."

And he's going to call us to be people who bring his sin-absorbing power into the messes in our world and all around us

To be agents of forgiveness and healing and peace and reconciliation as he is in us and empowers us to tackle messy and broken situations

NOT because we're so great or in our own power, but because HE'S in us and he's the powerful one.

Final question: **Is there some place around you where Christ-in-you needs to make contact with someone or help to clean up a messy situation?**

When a Christ-follower steps into a person's life who doesn't know Jesus or steps into a situation that is messy and conflicted and painful

We come bringing Christ-in-us with us who has already forgiven all the sins of everyone involved and who longs to be reconciled with each and every person involved

And so this morning we are not only called to demonstrate his forgiveness in our own situations and our own messes

We are also SENT ONES, sent with Christ in us
with humility and great prayer, to bring Christ's power to bear into people's lives who are far from him

And into situations that sometimes from the outset look so hopeless and devastated that it is beyond all human ability to repair.

Where is Christ-in-you calling to bring his sponge-forgiveness power to bear in your own life and in the lives and situations of the people all around you today?

Where is he calling you not to generate forgiveness but to demonstrate forgiveness?

That's the call to live into and work out the good news that Jesus has taken away all the sins of the world

And to live out the good news that in him it is FINALLY safe to forgive others, because Christ in us has made it so.

PRAY