

God's Grace In US

Ephesians 4:32 - 5:2

Forgiveness: *Just Let It Go!*

We are called both to be forgiven and to forgive

Imitators of God (5:1)

- We are to imitate God by forgiving one another as God has forgiven us.
 - *The Imitation of Christ* – Thomas à Kempis
 - **I Cor 11:1** ...imitate me as I imitate Christ...
(see also **I Cor 4:16**; **I Thess 1:6**; **2:14**; **Heb 6:12**)
- Imitation: a key part of learning & growth
- As beloved children...



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- As beloved children...
- We grow spiritually as we mimic godly behavior until it becomes 2nd nature

Imitators of God (5:1)

The Ways of Forgiveness (4:32 & 5:2)

- Kind = benevolent, favorably predisposed
 - Chréstos – Christos (kindness – Christ)
 - **Luke 6:35** – re: the ungrateful & wicked

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The Ways of Forgiveness (4:32 & 5:2)

- Kind = benevolent, favorably predisposed
- Tenderhearted - Compassionate
 - **1 Pet 3:8** – re: people you've got 'issues' with

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The Ways of Forgiveness (4:32 & 5:2)

- Kind = benevolent, favorably predisposed
- Tenderhearted - Compassionate
- Forgiving = ‘gracing’ i.e. acting in grace, extending grace
 - We’ve been extended grace, why don’t we naturally return the favor? That’s forgiveness!

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The Ways of Forgiveness (4:32 & 5:2)

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- Forgiving = ‘gracing’ i.e. acting in grace, extending grace
- Sacrifice, giving Himself up for us
 - Phil 2 – not grasping for Himself. Letting go!

Imitators of God (5:1)

The Ways of Forgiveness (4:32 & 5:2)

Forgiveness – What & How

- Forgiveness is granted, not earned
- Forgiveness is a matter of obedience, not feelings.
- Forgiveness is a promise to let it go, not a 'forgetting.'
- Forgiveness is a beginning, not an end.

Forgiveness: *Just Let It Go!* – Eph 4:32 – 5:1

Imitators of God (5:1)

The Ways of Forgiveness (4:32 & 5:2)

Forgiveness – What & How

From Master's Lips (Matt 18:21-35)

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