

**Clarksville Church of Christ**  
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy  
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649  
 (812) 944-2305  
[www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

**Sundays**  
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM  
 Worship.....10:30 AM  
 Worship.....6:00 PM

**Wednesdays**  
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

**Elders**  
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917  
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

**Deacons**  
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766  
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938  
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295  
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

**Editor**  
 Stephen W. Nale.....502-727-7559

Goals For 2022  
 Theme  
Be Ye Imitators of Christ  
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40:  
Sunday AM: 50  
Sunday PM: 40: Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana  
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

**Gary Henry**  
*is preaching today*

**We are now in week #27 of our Daily Bible Reading.**

**Prayer List**  
 Lynn Maudlin, Sharon Maudlin, Sharon Nale, Polly Ward Les & Novema Dunn  
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)  
 Sharon Thompson, Kay Thompson  
 Gene Ward & Beth McFarland  
 Brooke Thomas, Pam Caudill  
 Debbie Lewellen, Cathie Hall

**THIS MONTH: Gave Forgiveness**  
 Matt. 9:2,Jn. 3:17, Eph. 4:32,Col. 3:13

**Who Have You Invited To Services This week?**

**Lord's Supper**  
 Matt. 26:26-29

**Scripture Reading**  
 AM: Matt. 5:23-24  
 PM: 1 Pet.2:21-23

**Encouragement Tally**  
 Invites this month: 0  
 Invites last month: 20  
 Visitors YTD: 9

Place Stamp Here

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The  
**Clarksville Beacon**  
 www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Our Theme for 2022...  
**"Being Imitators of Christ"**  
 1 Cor. 11:1  
 Clarksville Church of Christ  
 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.  
 Clarksville, IN 47129

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**Being Imitators of Jesus' Forgiveness**

**Welcome!**  
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

**VISITORS**  
 Please fill out a visitor's card or scan the QR code below and provide the information requested.



**Introduction**

Text: **Mt. 5:23,24** — "If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. **First be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and offer your gift."

After all else has been done to resolve conflicts with other people, there still remains *the matter of reconciliation and forgiveness.*

**FORGIVE AS THE LORD HAS FORGIVEN US**

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 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" (**Col. 3:12,13**). Cf. **Eph. 4:31,32.**

Restoration and reconciliation of damaged relationships involves forgiveness of the other person.  
 But what does forgiveness mean?  
 Not a feeling.  
 Not the same as forgetting.  
 Does not mean excusing.

Forgiveness is **a decision to think and act in a forgiving way.**

When we forgive, we release the debt, let go of the grievance, and free the offender of any obligation to us.  
 Usually must be a *repeated* decision, not simply a one-time action. (Cf. love, repentance, and many similar decisions.)

We tend to say, "I will not forgive you until . . ." — and then we create endless "hoops" the offender must jump through.

We insist that they must satisfy our demands.  
 We refuse to forgive until their repentance is "adequate."  
 We insist that they know how deeply they have hurt us.

Clearly, there is a link between God's forgiveness and our forgiveness.

## Being Imitators of Jesus' Forgiveness cont.

We should *not expect to be forgiven* if we don't forgive others - [Mt. 6:14,15](#). Cf. [Jas. 2:13](#).

The reason we forgive is *because* God forgave us - [Col. 3:12,13](#). Cf. "submitting to one another *out of reverence for Christ*" ([Eph. 5:21](#)).

As with love, Christ is the *model* for our forgiveness - [Jn. 13:34,35](#). Cf. [Mt. 5:43-48](#).

**Four promises of forgiveness.** "I will not dwell on this incident." "I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you." "I will not talk to others about this incident." "I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder the relationship God would want us to have." Cf. [Rom. 15:7](#).

And a **fifth promise:** "If I ever break any of these promises, I will come and seek your forgiveness."

What if God's forgiveness of us extended no further than the kind of forgiveness we offer to others?

Is this difficult? Certainly — *but as the most forgiven people in the world, shouldn't we also be the most forgiving?*

### OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" ([Rom. 12:21](#)).

One of the main obstacles to godly peacemaking is our tendency to "respond in kind."

Fight fire with fire.

Give them a taste of their own medicine.

Want them to know how it feels.

We do things "in response" that we would never do if we initiated it — and when we do, we are returning evil for evil.

Punishment, justice, etc. are never the prerogative of the victim.

Jesus' example - [1 Pt. 2:21-23](#).

We must be willing to entrust ourselves to God - [1 Pt. 4:19](#).

### Conclusion

For the children of God, peacemaking must be a high priority — "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" ([Mt. 5:9](#)).

If we get along only with those who are easy to get along with, we do nothing but what the world does. Cf. [Mt. 5:46,47](#).

As society disintegrates, we will find ourselves more often in situations that involve conflict with those around us.

There is no greater opportunity than in conflict to let light shine from our lives and show that there is a better way.

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" ([Mt. 5:16](#)).

Gary Henry — [WordPoints.com](#) + [AreYouaChristian.com](#)

## THE DOOR IS CLOSED TO THE UNFORGIVING SPIRIT

**"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14,15).**

In order to seek God with honesty and integrity, we must remove anger and resentment from our hearts. There is nothing that will keep us away from God more certainly than a failure to forgive those who have wronged us. Jesus said simply, "If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:15). It is only the merciful who will receive mercy (Matthew 5:7; James 2:13).

A truly merciful spirit involves more than the grudging forgiveness of others when they come to us and beg for grace. Jesus called upon us to be people of such character that we will not rest until broken relationships are mended, even if we have to be the ones who take the initiative. Whether the relationship has been broken by our own sin, the other party has sinned against us, or there are sins on both sides that need to be forgiven, in all cases we are to seek out the other person and do all we can to repair the breach (Matthew 5:23,24; 18:15). Paul wrote, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18). And mark it well: "if it is possible, as much as depends on you" requires the doing of much more than we think is "necessary." If God had thought of nothing more than what He "had" to do, He certainly would not have given His Son's life to make possible the mending of our relationship with Him. It was, after all, we who had broken the relationship, yet His love did not complain about having to do more than was "necessary" to fix it.

But we should be extremely careful. In our conflicts with others, we may be wrong about who it is who actually needs forgiveness. If we think we're generous enough to confer forgiveness, we need to beware of pride and faulty judgments. Our view of what needs to be fixed may be seriously out of sync with the way God sees it. So having a forgiving spirit means not only that we're willing to forgive the other person; it may mean adjusting our concept of what is actually broken about the relationship. Humility may mean reversing the direction of the forgiveness — seeking the forgiveness of the very person that we, at first, thought needed our forgiveness.

"No prayers can be heard which do not come from a forgiving heart" (J. C. Ryle).

Gary Henry - [WordPoints.com](#) + [AreYouaChristian.com](#)