

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE WITHOUT AN APOLOGY?

MATTHEW 18:21-35 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

We have all been offended one way or another. Some offenses are easy to forgive, but others are difficult, especially if we have been severely hurt. As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to forgive as He has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13).

When we are offended, we often expect the offending party to apologize for their actions. However, there may be situations when others are oblivious about how they have offended us. In such cases, there is value in choosing to forgive even without an apology. It is not ideal, but it will benefit the offended party.

In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Jesus teaches that those who receive God's forgiveness are commanded to forgive others. We are forgiven under God's grace

and must extend the same grace to others. When we refuse to forgive others, it means we may not yet have fully grasped the value of God's forgiveness. And we would bear the consequence of having an unforgiving heart.

One day, Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive. Will forgiving seven times be enough? When Peter thought he was being gracious, Jesus replied he must forgive without limits (18:21-22)!

Jesus then told the parable of the king who settled accounts with his servant. He intended for one of his servants who could not pay his huge debt to be sold together with his family and all his possessions. But when the servant pleaded for patience, the king had pity and forgave him (18:23-27).

When the forgiven servant saw someone who owed him some money, he seized him. The other servant begged for patience. But he was seized and sent to jail until he could pay his debt. The king summoned and castigated the wicked servant for not forgiving the other servant. The king sent him to jail until he could pay all his debt. Jesus then pointed out that our heavenly Father will not forgive anyone who does not forgive another with all sincerity (18:28-35).

In this sermon, we will learn what forgiveness is, what it takes to forgive, and the value of forgiving others even without an apology. ✱

THE HEART OF TRUE WORSHIP

REV. MARK MAGANGAT

Worship is central to the Christian life - it goes beyond songs and ceremonies; it is a way of living that declares our relationship with God. Romans 12:2 says, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* This verse serves as a guide for understanding worship as a journey of transformation.

Worship as a Living Sacrifice

Paul calls us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. This means worship is not limited to church services but about giving our whole lives to God daily. Every action, decision and thought should be done to honor Him. True worship involves surrendering our will to God and recognizing His authority over all areas of our lives.

Worship is the Renewal of the Mind

Transformation begins with the renewal of our minds. It is allowing God to change our thoughts and actions. When we read the Bible and pray, we allow God's truth to change our perspectives. This renewal allows us to understand God's will and leads us to live in a way that pleases Him. Worship is not just about feelings but a deep

change and conviction that affects everything we do.

Worship in Spirit and Truth

Believers are called to worship in spirit and truth. This means our worship should be genuine and based on God's Word. It is not just about rituals but about a real connection with God. Worshiping in the Spirit involves a heartfelt relationship with God, while worship in truth means following what the Bible teaches.

Worship as a Community

While personal worship is vital, worshipping together with other believers is also essential. In Acts 2:42-47, the early church showed this by devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer. Gathering for worship strengthens our faith. It encourages and brings God's people together as a family.

Worship as a Way of Life

Romans 12:2 is a verse I have reflected on as I began to lead the Exalting Ministry. This verse challenges us to make worship a part of our daily lives. Here are some critical lessons from the passage and how we can apply them in our personal lives.

1. Daily Surrender: Start each day by offering yourself to God. Surrender your plans, desires and actions to Him, seeking to honor Him in everything you do.

PARSON TO PERSON

2. Renewal of the Mind: Fight for your time with God and His Word. Pray regularly. Let God's truth shape your thoughts and attitudes, aligning them with His purpose.

3. Resist Conformity: Examine areas where you might be following worldly patterns. Ask God for help resisting these influences and start living by His Holy standards.

4. Authentic Worship: Be genuine in your worship. Connect with God sincerely, expressing your love and adoration truthfully. Let your worship reflect the depth of your relationship with Him.

5. Community Worship: Join our community worship. Celebrate God's goodness by worshipping and praying together as a family.

Worship is a daily discipline—done not on Sundays only. It is a call to live differently, to be transformed by God's love and truth, and to shine His light in the world. Let us surrender daily, renew our minds, resist worldly influences and worship authentically. May we experience the fullness of God's presence so that our lives may truly glorify Him! ✱

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