



# The Father's Grace

## "The Lord's Prayer" Series

Matthew 6:12, p. 811

February 16, 2020

Pastor Mickey Klink

### Introduction

In Petition Five of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to receive and give the Father's gracious forgiveness.

### The Text: Matthew 6:12

1) Summary: Petition Five is asking God to forgive our sins and empower us to forgive the sins of others.

a) "Forgiveness" is a foundational Christian truth for properly understanding and receiving the gospel.

*1 John 1:8-10: <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

b) "Debts" is a way the Bible explains sin, emphasizing that our sin needs to be pardoned or cancelled.

- Sin is fundamentally rebellion against God.
- Sin draws God's wrath.
- Therefore, God's wrath against our sin is the fundamental human problem.

2) Petition Five offers us important teachings on a biblical view sin and forgiveness.

a) Forgiveness of our sins is a gift by God's grace and is received through faith in Jesus Christ.

*Romans 3:23-25: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation [atonement / payment] by his blood, to be received by faith.*

b) Forgiveness of others is the fruit of God's gracious forgiveness, a sign and symptom of faith in Christ.

c) Forgiveness is a state of existence and way of life, a gift that is received but also given.

*Matt. 6:14-16: <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

d) Confessing sin and asking for forgiveness should be a regular practice for Christians and churches.

3) By praying Petition Five, we are asking our Father to apply his grace to us and through us.

**Response**

Our prayer life – and Christian life – should reflect the truth that God has extended to us his gracious forgiveness, and we should extend the Father’s grace to others.

**Small Group Questions for Matthew 6:12 (Lord’s Prayer Series)**

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- 1) Starter Question: Have you ever had a hard time forgiving someone, and if so, why?
- 2) What is “forgiveness, and how would you explain this to a non- or new Christian?
- 3) What are “our debts,” and how would you explain this to a non- or new Christian?
- 4) What is the connection between God forgiving us and the expectation or assumption that we will forgive others?
- 5) How do you explain Matt. 6:14-15, and how does the rest of Scripture direct us to see those verses not as a “do this and get that,” but as a strong depiction of a forgiving way of life?
- 6) In what ways should Christians deal with the ongoing sin in their lives, and the ongoing forgiveness God provides.
- 7) Why is it difficult for us to forgive people who sin against us?
- 8) How might this petition encourage you be more honest and open about sin in your life?
- 9) How might this petition encourage you to be more gracious and forgiving to others in your life?
- 10) Since this petition directs us to receive and give forgiveness, is there a sin or sinful habit you need to confess and ask for forgiveness, and is there person you need to forgive? If you are not comfortable sharing these with your small group, spend time praying for one another.

**Further study this week:** Key biblical texts on sin and forgiveness: Romans 3 (Mon); 1 John 1 (Tues); Ephesians 4 (Wed); Matthew 18 (Thurs); Luke 15 (Fri).