



Six Signs of a Forgiving Heart Touched by Grace

1. Resists Broadcasting their Offense to Others

Gen. 45:1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

2. Desires to Dissolve their Fear and Restore Closeness

Gen. 45:3 And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. "So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near.

3. Seeks to Make it Easier for Them to Forgive Themselves

Gen. 45:4 ... And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt."⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

4. Views the Offense as Being Allowed by God for Good

Gen.45:8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God.

5. Carefully Protects Them from Unnecessary Humiliation

Gen.45:9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry."¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have."¹¹ There I will provide for you ..."

6. Renews the Forgiveness Promise for a Lifetime

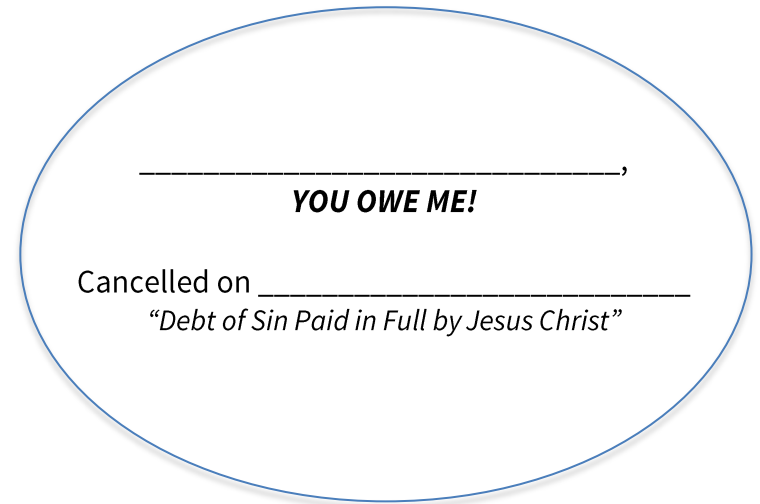
"AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD?"

"YOU MEANT IT FOR EVIL, BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD"

The Forgiveness Promise

- ✓ *I'll not hold the offense against you any longer.*
- ✓ *I'll not purposely recall it in my imagination and stir up my negative feelings towards you.*
- ✓ *I'll not bring it up again to you or to others.*
- ✓ *I'll begin to bless you and speak well of you in my thoughts, prayers, words, and deeds.*

The Time to Forgive is NOW!



BIBLE READING PLAN

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Numbers 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Numbers 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Numbers 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Numbers 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Numbers 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Numbers 21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Numbers 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Numbers 22 |

Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor
New Life Church, Gahanna/June 28 & 29, 2014



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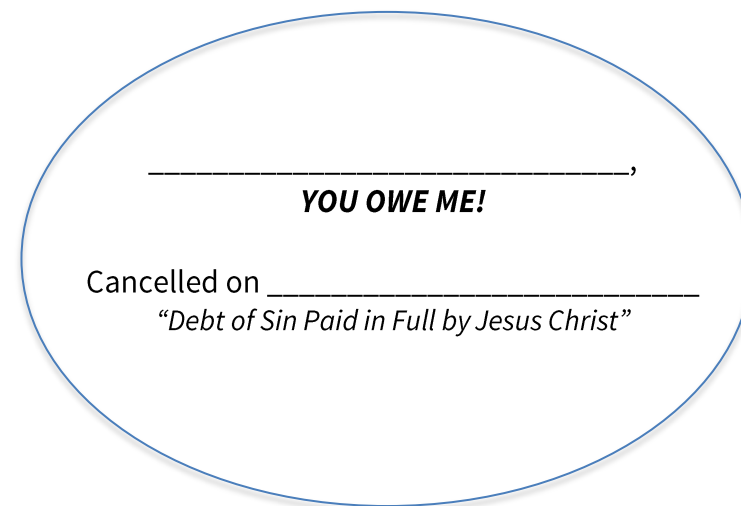
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