

# Forgive As You Have Been Forgiven

We regularly have conversations with individuals at the center who struggle with forgiving those who have offended them. Many times, those offenses are deep. They were neglected, abused, hurt, and sometimes violated. Some of the pain they experienced factors into their decision about choosing life. There are many things that we have to unpack when we hear their stories.

The fact of the matter is that we live in a sin cursed world. We are sinners—all of us. Others offend us, and we offend others. More than that, we offend God. We violate His commands. We transgress His will. We rebel against His statutes. None of that is OK. None of it is acceptable.

At the same time, we must frame it in a biblical context and learn to sin less and forgive more. We must look to an alternative way to address the issues rather than respond in a natural way with anger, bitterness, resentment, hatred, slander, etc. We must learn to respond in a way consistent with what our Savior has done for us.

Admittedly, when people sin against us, it is difficult to release them of the offense. We often think that they need to suffer for the wrong committed or somehow atone for the sin. Often, we are the ones who determine what that looks like and when they have fully met the requirement—if ever.

Yet, how does God see our sin? How does God choose to respond to the greater wrong we have committed against Him?

I hope we understand that we offend the heavenly Father—on a daily basis—through pride, selfishness, and greed (plus a whole lot more). In truth, we are often too familiar with sin to see, let alone appreciate, the depth of our own wretchedness. We can grow complacent when it comes to God’s grace, even as professing believers. Only when we see our sin the way God sees it can we truly appreciate the mercy and love He pours out on us.

Jesus give us an illustration of this truth in the parable of the prodigal son. As the son returned home, he was keenly aware of his wretchedness. He fully understood the implications of his rebellion, and the retribution he was likely to face. Knowing the depth of his offense, he gladly would have received any crumbs of mercy from his aggrieved father.

*And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him,*

*and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.” And they began to celebrate (Luke 15:21-24).*

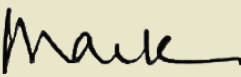
When the father reached his wayward son, he did not contain his affection, and he did not hesitate in granting forgiveness. This was even more shocking to Christ’s audience of Pharisees than the imagery of a grown man sprinting down a dusty road to greet a wayward son.

The father immediately embraced him. Jesus said the father “*saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him*” (Luke 15:20). The father welcomed his son home with a display of unbridled emotion—repeatedly kissing and hugging him with great affection. What an extraordinary response in light of the child’s abuse and sin against his father.

The underlying attitude of his father while his son was away must have been a painful burning in his heart. It likely filled his thoughts every day. Yet, anger and bitterness did not consume his thinking; rather, he longed for his son and had a yearning hope that he would repent and return.

One commentator made the following observation: the father would spare the boy from any more of the reproach of his sin—by becoming a reproach himself. In essence, he took the boy’s disgrace completely upon himself, emptying himself of all pride, renouncing his fatherly rights, not caring at all about his own honor—even in that culture, where honor seemed paramount. And in an amazing display of selfless love, despising the shame of it all (cf. Hebrews 12:2), he opened his arms to the returning sinner and hugged him tightly in an embrace designed partly to shield him from any further humiliation. By the time the boy walked into the village, he was already fully reconciled to his father.


Although the prodigal son had come home prepared to kiss his father’s feet; instead, the father repeatedly kisses his son’s head. Such is what is required of our response to those who have offended us. We are required to forgive one another, even as God, for Christ’s sake, has forgiven us. We are likely never more Christ-like than when we forgive.





Mark Pitman  
Executive Director


## Connect with us!

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## Get Involved!

### Volunteer

Many volunteers dedicate their time and talents to serve our clients. From keeping our centers clean to answering phones to walking alongside clients in crisis, it takes a team of people to keep things running. If you are interested in serving with us, please contact our business office at (419) 636-5692. Consistent volunteer opportunities are available at all four of our offices.

### Give

Your gift of any amount will make a difference. Contact our business office at (419) 636-5692 for giving options.

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### Pray

Ask God to protect the unborn, to be near to our clients, and to work through our staff. You may also sign up to receive “Bella Alert” messages to pray for abortion-minded clients by texting the word Bella to (844) 664-3423.

### Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Our annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser runs from Mother’s Day to Father’s day. Individuals, churches, and businesses can stop by their local CPC office to pick up baby bottles to fill with change and return to support the work we do at CPC. If you have questions or need a “bulk” quantity of bottles, contact our business office.



## Gifts Given

**In Memory of Josephine Reyes**  
*Given by:* Roger and Linda Andrews, Anonymous, Lyle and Christa Beach, Kathleen Currier, Brent and Shonna Holland, George and Michele Jelen, Judd and Becky McClarren, Steve and Kelly Myers, Tim and Tami Rhodes, Shirlie Smith, Rob and Sharla Young, Bridgewater Community Church

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**In Honor of Al Riegsecker’s 60th Birthday**  
*Given by:* Curt and Judy Nofziger

**In Honor of Jean Pendleton, CPC Volunteer**  
*Given by:* Sula Pettibon

*From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint;  
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Psalm 61:2*

## Ministry Position Openings

Please contact Mark Pitman  
(419-636-5692 or mark@cpcnwo.org)  
with any interest.

### Community Liaison

CPC seeks an individual passionate to inform the Northwest Ohio community about our services. The Community Liaison will promote CPC’s mission through one-on-one meetings, public events, and media relations. He or she will also be responsible for content creation and assisting with fundraising. Candidates must have a degree and/or experience in public relations, graphic design, health, or another relevant field. This part-time positions is 15-20 hours per week and has flexibility.

### Nurse Practitioner for the STI Clinic

We seek a Nurse Practitioner to perform STI testing at our Bryan and/or Defiance locations.

### Director of Project Respect

We are seeking a self-motivated, flexible, dependable individual with strong organizational and management skills to serve as Director of Project Respect. The Director must adhere to the conviction that abstinence is the best solution to avoiding the risks of premarital sexual activity. Duties include scheduling, grant reporting, ensuring adherence to grant requirements, and overseeing new staff hiring and training. A Bachelor’s degree or higher in education, health, management, social work or a related field is strongly preferred.

### Project Respect Classroom Facilitator

We seek classroom presenters to join our Project Respect team. This is a part time, paid position. Facilitators travel to schools in Defiance, Henry, Fulton, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties to share messages of Sexual Risk Avoidance and character education to middle and high school students.

## Clinic Needs

**Bryan:** Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6), nail clippers, girls’ socks, onesies (boys’ 9 mos and girls’ 9-24 mos no white please), lotion/shampoo/body wash, dishes, booties, crib sheets, wipes, changing pads, brushes/combs, thermometers

**Defiance:** Diapers (sizes newborn, 5, and 6) sleepers (sizes 9, 12, and 18 mos), outfits (boys’ and girls’ 9, 12, and 18 mos), baby hair brushes, baby toys, quilts, receiving blankets

**Napoleon:** Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6), baby wash, hair brushes, nail clippers, thermometers, washcloths, bottle brushes, small infant sleepers

**Wauseon:** Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6), thermometers, hooded infant towels, onesies (girls’ newborn-24 mos, short and long sleeved, preferably no white), outfits (girls’ newborn-24 mos, short and long-sleeved)



Bryan



Defiance



Napoleon



Wauseon

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Church Of Christ, Montpelier  
Church Of the Nazarene, Napoleon  
Colton United Methodist, Liberty Center  
Columbia Church Of Christ, Edon  
Cornerstone Church, Hicksville  
Crossroads Evangelical Church, Wauseon  
Dad’s Place, Bryan  
Defiance Church of the Nazarene  
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First Baptist Church, Stryker  
First Baptist Church, Defiance  
First Church Of Christ, Bryan  
First Church Of Christ, Hicksville  
First Church of God, Defiance  
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