"The Grace Pursuit (8): Transformed by Grace – Forgiveness" (Ephesians 4:21-32)

What should be a Believer's Attitude when he is Offended by others? What should a Believer Do when he Offends others?

Practical Fruits in the Lives of Spirit-led Believers... Today's Theme: Forgiveness

- I. The "Fruit of Spirit": 9 Virtues (Gal 5:22-23)
  - A. The Expression of Virtues is an Indicator of How Far a Believer has <u>Progressed</u> in his Journey of Grace Pursuit
  - B. Living a Life of Grace Enhances Inter-Personal Relationship in Radical way
- II. <u>Lifestyle of a Believer whose Mind is being Renewed</u> (Ephesians 4:21-32)
  - A. Contrast of the New Self to the Old Self (vv 21-24)
  - B. Conduct of the "New Self": Five Exhortations (vv 25-32)

Speak the Truth; Avoid Sinful Anger by Controlling one's Emotion; Work and Provide for the Needy; Speak only what Building Others Up; Be Kind, Compassionate and be Forgiving/Gracious, as God in Christ is Kind, Compassionate and Gracious

## III. The Path to Forgiveness

- A. What is Forgiveness? (Matt 18:15-35)
  - 1. How to handle a Significant Case of Conflict (vv 15-20)
  - 2. How many times to Forgive? "70 times 7" "Always Forgive" (vv 21-22)
  - 3. The Parable of the Unforgiving Slave (vv 23-35)
- B. The Approaches to Forgiveness: The Legal Way vs. The Grace Way

Justice, Mercy and Grace... Forgiving the Offender Unconditionally is Supernatural, and comes only from the Transformed New Nature and the Enablement of the Holy Spirit

## **But what about Justice?**

- Surrender the Right of Judgment to the Only Judge, Jesus Christ
- C. If you are the Offender: Offer Genuine Apology, and Restore the Relationship (Psalm 19:12-13)

Reflection: Why Forgive? Can I Really Forgive my Offenders?

Yes, if you have the Holy Spirit in you and you Let the Holy Spirit Transform You (Psalm 19:14)!

Key Terms: Forgiveness; Fruit; Justice; Mercy; Grace