

God's Forgiveness

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[0:00] Communion is a time we reflect upon God's forgiveness. Ephesians 4.31 says this, Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice.

! And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you.

Some thoughts on this theme of forgiveness and of the impact it has upon us and our thinking, our life. Firstly, we see the fact of God's kindness.

God's kindness in Ephesians 2.7. It reads that, In the ages to come, He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Think of the kindness of God. He's so freely given His kindness to us. How much He loves us. How should that impact us?

[1:03] Replace bitterness with kindness. Secondly, we see God's tenderheartedness in Luke 1.78. It says, Through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the day spring from on high hath visited us.

Be tenderhearted like God. Think of our Lord in His tenderness and mercy that He sent light into our dark world. God gave His mercy from His very heart, from His bowels, from His innards, His intestines, His kidneys, His guts, the seat of emotions.

He gave from the very depths of His heart. It speaks of the place of our deepest emotions, our most intense passions, right in the very centre of our being, where we feel great joy or fear or concern.

We see that expressed in Matthew 9.36. In other words, He yearned with His bowels, as it were. He was moved with compassion on them because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd.

It says here that God was driven from within. His love touched the very core of who He was. And so should we. We should replace selfishness with that selfless love.

[2:23] We see thirdly, God's forgiveness. The cross says to us that God has once for all forgiven sin in Christ. Forgiveness. It's complete and full and free.

God's forgiveness takes all the guilt away. It brings healing and freedom. It frees us from blame and shame. Unforgiveness will block your joy, your love.

Unforgiveness will bring bitterness. Unforgiveness will bind you. You see people where they're all caught up in that bitterness and just can't let it go. Just yield. Yield to God's kindness.

Yield to God's tender heartedness. To God's forgiveness. And show it to others. That's what we reflect on as we partake of this time of recollecting the cross and the love of God.

The cross and the work of God. The great kindness and mercy of God that is shown for us at the cross. Let's be reminded of that today afresh. Let's be reminded of that today afresh. desde! Thank you.