

WORD BASICS

LOVE & FORGIVENESS

1. GOD IS LOVE, & HE LOVES US:

1Jn.4:8b God is love

A. GOD'S LOVE FOR US:

Jer.31:3 I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee

Rom.8:38,39 I am persuaded, that [nothing] shall be able to separate us from the love of God

Eph.2:4-6 God...for His great love wherewith He loved us...hath raised us up

1Jn.3:1 What manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us

1Jn.4:10 Love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us
(See also Zeph.3:17)

B. HOW GOD SHOWED US HIS LOVE:

Jn.3:16 God so loved the world, that He gave His only...Son

Rom.5:7,8 God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

1Jn.4:9 In this was manifested the love of God...God sent His Son into the world, that we might live through Him

C. JESUS' LOVE FOR US:

Jn.10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep

Jn.15:13 Greater love hath no man...that (he) lay down his life 2Cor.8:9 Though He (Jesus) was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye...might be rich

Eph.3:19 Know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge

Rev.1:5 Jesus Christ...loved us, & washed us from our sins in His Own blood

D. DWELLING & ABIDING IN GOD'S LOVE:

Jn.14:21 He that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, & I will love him, & will manifest Myself to him

Jn.14:23 If a man love Me...My Father will love him, & we will come unto him, & make Our abode with him

Jn.17:26 That the love...may be in them, & I in them

1Jn.2:5 Whoso keepeth...Word, in him is love of God perfected

1Jn.4:19 We love him, because He first loved us

Jude 21b Keep yourselves in the love of God

2. THE FIRST GREAT COMMANDMENT--TO LOVE GOD:

Deut.6:5 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, & with all thy soul, & with all thy might

Deut.10:12 What doth the Lord require of thee, but to love Him...with all thy heart & with all thy soul

Deut.30:20 Love God, &...cleave unto Him: for He is thy life

Josh.22:5 Take diligent heed to...to love the Lord your God, & to cleave unto Him

Josh.23:11 Take good heed unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord

Mat.22:37,38 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...this is the first & great commandment

(See also Deut.30:6; Mk.12:30.)

3. THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT--TO LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR:

Lev.19:18 Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself

Mat.22:39 The second (commandment) is like unto it (the first), Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself

Jn.13:34 Love one another; as I have loved you

Jn.15:12 This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you

Jn.15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another

1Jn.3:11 This is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another

1Jn.3:23 His commandment, That we should...love one another

4. LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

A. GOD LOVES US SO WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

Jn.13:34 As I have loved you...ye [ought to] love one another

Eph.5:2a Walk in love [one to another], as Christ also hath loved us, & hath given Himself for us

1Jn.4:7a Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God

1Jn.4:11 If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another 1Jn.5:1b Every one that loveth Him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him

B. GOD GIVES US LOVE TO LOVE OTHERS:

Rom.5:5 The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us

Gal.5:22 The fruit of the Spirit is love...longsuffering

1Thes.3:12 The Lord make you to increase & abound in love one toward another, & toward all men
1Thes.4:9 Ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another
2Thes.3:5 The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God
2Tim.1:7 God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of love
(See also Eph.6:23)

C. TO LOVE IS THE GREATEST LAW OF GOD:

Mk.12:33 To love (God)... & to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all...offerings & sacrifices
Lk.10:25,27,28 To inherit eternal life...love God with all thy heart... neighbour as thyself. This do, & thou shalt live
Gal.5:14 All the law is fulfilled in...this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself

D. LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT VIRTUE:

1Cor.13:13 Faith, hope & love...the greatest of these is love
1Cor.13:2b Though I have faith...& have not love, I am nothing
Gal.5:6 Faith...worketh by love
Eph.3:17 (Be) rooted & grounded in love
Eph.3:19 The love of Christ...passeth knowledge
Col.3:14 Above all these things put on love
Rev.2:3,4 For My name's sake hast laboured...(but) I have somewhat against thee...thou hast left thy first love
(See also Eph.1:15,16; Col.1:3,4; Phlm.5.)

E. LOVE ONE ANOTHER FERVENTLY:

1Thes.3:12 Increase & abound in love one toward another
1Pet.1:22b Love one another with a pure heart fervently
1Pet.4:8 Above all things have fervent love among yourselves

F. LOVE SINCERELY & GENUINELY:

Judg.16:15a How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me?
Rom.12:9 Let love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy)
1Pet.1:22a Obeying the truth...to unfeigned love of the brethren (See also 2Cor.6:6; 8:8.)
Phi.1:9,10 That your love may abound yet more & more...that ye may be sincere & without offence

G. THE BENEFITS THAT LOVING OTHERS BRINGS US:

Jn.13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another
2Cor.13:11 Live in peace; & the God of love shall be with you

Eph.3:17-19	Ye, being rooted & grounded in love...might be filled with all the fulness of God
1Jn.2:10	He that loveth his brother abideth in the light
1Jn.3:14	We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren
1Jn.4:7b	Every one that loveth is born of God, & knoweth God
1Jn.4:12 I	f we love one another, God dwelleth in us, & His love is perfected in us (See also 1Jn.2:5)
1Jn.4:16	God is love; & he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, & God in him

5. REAL, GENUINE LOVE:

A. WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT IN LOVE:

1Cor.16:14	Let <u>all</u> your things be done with love
2Cor.5:14	The love of Christ constraineth (compels) us

B. THE QUALITIES THAT GENUINE LOVE WILL HAVE:

1Cor.8:1b	Love edifieth (builds up, strengthens)
1Cor.13:4	Love envieth not; vaunteth (exalts) not itself, is not puffed up (proud)
1Cor.13:5	Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil
1Cor.13:6	Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth Col.3:14 Love...is the bond of perfectness
1Jn.4:18	There is no fear in love...love casteth out fear

C. GENUINE LOVE RESULTS IN UNITY OF BELIEVERS:

Col.2:2a	That their hearts might be...knit together in love (See also 1Sam.18:1; Eph.4:15,16; Phi.2:1,2.)
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D. REAL LOVE WILL NOT GIVE UP OR FAIL:

Song 8:7	Many waters [troubles] cannot quench love...drown it
1Cor.13:4	Love suffereth long
1Cor.13:7	Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things
1Cor.13:8	Love never faileth
Heb.13:1	Let brotherly love <u>continue</u> (keep up, not fail)

E. LOVE IS NOT PUSHY:

Rom.12:10	With brotherly love; in honour preferring one another
Phlm.8,9a	Though I might be bold...to (command, impose upon) thee...yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee

F. LOVE IS CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS' WEAKNESSES:

Rom.14:21	It is good [not to do] any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak
Rom.15:1	We...ought to bear the infirmities of the weak
Rom.15:2	Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good
Gal.5:13	By love serve one another
Eph.4:2	With longsuffering, forbearing one another in love

G. LOVE WILL NOT HURT OR DO WRONG TO OTHERS:

Rom.13:9,10	Love worketh no ill to his neighbour
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H. IF WE HAVE LOVE, WE WILL BE KIND & COURTEOUS:

1Cor.13:4a	Love suffereth long, & is <u>kind</u>
Eph.4:15	Speaking the truth in <u>love</u> [not inconsiderately blunt]
Eph.4:32	Be ye kind...tenderhearted, forgiving one another
1Pet.3:8	(Have) compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous

6. REAL LOVE RESULTS IN GOOD DEEDS:

A. PUTTING LOVE INTO ACTION:

Mat.14:14	Jesus...was <u>moved</u> with compassion toward them, & He healed their sick
Mat.25:35	I was an hungered...I was thirsty, & ye <u>gave</u>
Lk.6:31	As ye would that men should do to you, do ye to them
Lk.10:30-35	[The good Samaritan took loving action & helped]
Gal.6:10	Let us <u>do</u> good [deeds] unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith
1Jn.3:18	Let us not love in word [only]...but in <u>deed</u> & truth
2Jn.6	This is love, that we walk after His commandments

B. SACRIFICIAL LOVE, GIVING OUR LIVES FOR OTHERS:

Jn.15:13	Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends
1Jn.3:16	He (Jesus) laid down His life for us: & we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren
Acts 15:25,26	Barnabas & Paul...hazarded their lives for the name of Jesus (See also Acts 20:24)
Phi.2:30	For the work of Christ he was nigh unto death

C. BE CONCERNED ABOUT OTHERS' WELFARE; NOT JUST YOUR OWN:

1Cor.13:5	(Love) seeketh not her own
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Phi.2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others
1Thes.4:9 As touching brotherly love...love one another

D. SELFISHNESS SHOWS A LACK OF LOVE:

1Jn.3:17 Whoso...seeth his brother have need, & shutteth up his ...compassion, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
Jam.4:17 To him that knoweth to do good, & doeth it not, to him it is sin

E. DOING GOOD TO OUR BRETHERN IS DOING IT TO JESUS:

Mat.25:35-40 Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of My brethren, ye have done it unto Me
Heb.6:10 Love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints
(See also Eph.6:5-8; Col.3:22-24.)

F. FAILING TO DO GOOD TO OUR BRETHERN IS FAILING TO DO IT TO JESUS:

Mat.25:41-45 Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me

7. LOVE VS. HATE:

A. WE DO NOT TRULY LOVE GOD IF WE DON'T LOVE OUR FELLOW MAN:

1Jn.4:20 He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God Whom he hath not seen?
Tit.3:3-5 [Before we were saved] we...(lived) in malice & envy, hate ful, & hating one another
Jam.3:9-12 Bless we God...& curse men. My brethren, these things ought not so to be (See also Jam.3:14; 1Jn.3:17.)
1Jn.4:21 This commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also (See also Mat.5:23,24)

B. WE ARE COMMANDED NOT TO BE HATEFUL:

Lev.19:17,18 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart...but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself

C. WHEN WE DON'T LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

1Jn.2:9,11 He that hateth his brother is in darkness...blinded
1Jn.3:10 He that loveth not his brother...is not of God
1Jn.3:14b He that loveth not his brother abideth in death
1Jn.3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer
1Jn.4:20a If a man say, I love God, & hateth his brother...liar

1Jn.4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love

D. THE BAD FRUIT OF HATRED:

Gen.37:4 They hated him, & could not speak peaceably unto him

Pro.10:12a Hatred stirreth up stifes

1Jn.3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer

(See also Gen.4:3-8; Pro.26:26; Ezk.25:15.)

8. SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF LOVE:

A. WE ARE TO LOVE ALL MEN:

Mat.5:46,47 If ye [only] love them which love you...what do ye more than others? (See also Lk.6:32,33)

1Thes.3:12 Increase & abound in love...toward all men

Heb.12:14a Follow peace with all men

B. WE ARE TO ESPECIALLY LOVE BROTHERS & SISTERS IN THE LORD:

Jn.13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another

Gal.6:10 Especially unto them who are of the household of faith

1Pet.2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood

(See also Heb.13:1; 1Pet.4:8. Also compare Tit.3:15; 2Jn.1; 3Jn.1 re: "loving in the faith".)

C. EXAMPLES OF UNUSUALLY GREAT LOVE &/OR ADMIRATION:

1Sam.18:1 The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, (he) loved him as his own soul
(See also 20:17)

2Sam.1:26 [David declared his deep love for Jonathan]

Mk.10:17-21 [Jesus was moved with love for the rich young ruler]

Jn.11:3,5 [Jesus' special love for Mary, Martha & Lazarus]

Jn.13:23 [Jesus had a special love for the apostle John] (See also Jn.19:26; 21:7,20.)

1Thes.5:13 Esteem them very highly in love for their [good] work's sake

D. WE ARE EVEN TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE TO OUR FOES:

Pro.25:21,22 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread...& if he be thirsty, give water...& the Lord shall reward thee

Mat.5:43-47 Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good ...that ye may be the children of your Father

Lk.6:27-30 Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, & pray for them

Lk.6:32-35 If ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? Sinners also love those that love them

Lk.10:30-37 A Samaritan [adversary of the Jews]...when he saw him [a wounded Jew], he had compassion on him

9. LOVE, FORGIVENESS & MERCY:

A. TO LOVE MEANS TO BE FORGIVING:

Pro.10:12b Love covereth all sins

1Pet.4:8b Love shall cover the multitude of sins

B. GOD IS MERCIFUL TO US:

Num.14:18a The Lord is longsuffering, & of great mercy, forgiving iniquity & transgression

Num.14:19 Pardon...the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of Thy mercy

Psa.103:8 The Lord is merciful & gracious, slow to anger, & plenteous in mercy

Psa.103:10,11 He hath not dealt with us after our sins...great is His mercy toward them that fear Him

Lam.3:22,23 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not...new every morning

Isa.63:7 The great goodness...He bestowed on them according to His mercies, &...multitude of His lovingkindnesses (See also 2Sam.24:14 ; Isa.54:7,8 .)

(Re: God's lovingkindness, see Psa.25:6; 36:7; 40:11; 69:16; 103:2-4; 119:149; Jer.9:24.)

C. GOD LOVES MERCY MORE THAN "JUSTICE" & RETRIBUTION:

Mic.7:18 God...pardoneth iniquity...He delighteth in mercy

Mat.9:13 I will have (desire) mercy, & not sacrifice (See also Hos.6:6)

Jam.2:13b Mercy rejoiceth against judgment

Rom.5:20 Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound

Pro.16:6 By mercy & truth iniquity is purged

D. HE OFTEN REFRAINS FROM JUSTLY PUNISHING US:

Exo.32:14 The Lord repented of the evil which He thought to do unto His people

Psa.103:9,10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities

Psa.130:3,4 If Thou...shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee

2Sam.24:16 The Lord repented of the evil, & said to the angel that destroyed the people, Stay now thine hand

(See also Gen.18:20,23-26; Jon.1:1,2; 3:10; 4:11.)

E. GOD MERCIFULLY FORGIVES OUR SINS:

Psa.103:12	As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us
Isa.1:18	Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...as wool
Mic.7:19	He will have compassion upon us...& cast all their sins into the depths of the sea
Isa.43:25	I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions
Isa.44:22	I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy...sins
Heb.8:12	I will be merciful...& their sins...remember no more

(See also Psa.32:1,2; Isa.38:17.)

F. GOD IS ESPECIALLY MERCIFUL TO THOSE WHO LOVE & FEAR HIM:

Exo.20:6	Showing mercy unto...them that love Me, & keep My commandments
Deut.7:9	God...keepeth covenant & mercy with them that love Him
Psa.103:11	As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him
Psa.103:13	Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him
Psa.103:17	The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him
Lk.7:47,48	Her (many) sins, are forgiven; for she loved much
Acts 26:18	Turn...from darkness to light...that they may receive forgiveness of sins

10. WE ARE TO BE MERCIFUL & FORGIVING:

Mic.6:8	What doth Lord require of thee, but to...love mercy
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A. WE SHOULD FORGIVE OTHERS AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN US:

Mat.18:33	Shouldst not thou also have...had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?
Lk.6:36	Be ye merciful, as your Father also is merciful
Eph.4:32	(Forgive) one another, even as God...hath forgiven you
Col.3:13	Forbearing one another, & forgiving one another... even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye

B. HAVE LONGSUFFERING & GREAT MERCY & KEEP FORGIVING:

Lk.17:4	If he trespass against thee 7 times in a day, & 7 times... repent; thou shalt <u>forgive</u> him
Mat.18:21,22	Lord, how <u>oft</u> shall my brother sin against me, & I forgive him? Until 70 times 7 (times)
Pro.17:9	He that covereth (passes over) a transgression seeketh love

C. MAKE MERCY A RULE IN YOUR HEART:

Pro.3:3,4	Let not mercy & truth forsake thee: write them upon the table of thine heart
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D. FORGIVE SINCERELY; DON'T HARBOUR GRUDGES OR HATRED:

Lev.19:17,18 Thou shalt not bear any grudge...but thou shalt love
Mat.18:35 From your hearts forgive...every one his brother
Eph.4:31,32 Let all bitterness...be put away from you, with all malice: forgive one another (See Heb.12:15)
Jam.5:9 Grudge not against another, brethren

E. GOD SHOWS MERCY TO US IF WE ARE MERCIFUL & FORGIVING:

Psa.18:25 With the merciful Thou wilt show Thyself merciful
Mat.5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy
Mat.6:12 Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors
Mat.6:14 If ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you
Mk.11:25 Forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father... may forgive you your trespasses
Lk.6:37 Condemn not, & ye shall not be condemned: forgive, & ye shall be forgiven

F. BUT WOE TO THE UNMERCIFUL:

Mat.6:15 If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will (God) forgive your trespasses (See also Mk.11:26)
Mat.18:23-35 So...shall (God) do also unto you, if ye...forgive not every one his brother their trespasses
Jam.2:13 He shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy

G. The self-righteous feel they don't sin & don't need forgiveness; therefore they are unloving & unforgiving to OTHERS:

Lk.7:47b To whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little
Lk.15:25-30 [The faithful older brother was angry that his father forgave the penitent prodigal son]
Lk.18:9 Certain trusted in themselves that they were righteous, & [therefore] despised others

11. THE LIMITS OF FORGIVENESS:

2Pet.3:9 The Lord...is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should (repent)

A. EVEN GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS BALANCED WITH JUSTICE:

Num.14:1-3, [Although God pardoned them (vs.19,20), the Jews weren't allowed to enter
11-23 the promised land]
2Sam.12:7-14 [God forgave David, but because his sin was so serious, he was still punished & his child died]
1Chr.21:1-14,17 [David sinned, then repented & begged forgiveness, but the Lord still sent a severe punishment]

2Chr.36:15,16 He had compassion...but they mocked, despised...wrath of the Lord arose...till there was no remedy

Pro.29:1 [Hardened rebels] destroyed, & that without remedy

Mat.21:33-41 [After showing mercy & patience, God destroyed the unrepentant wicked] (See also Mk.12:1-9)

(Compare 2Chr.33:1-19; Jer.15:1-4 & compare Mat. 5:44,45; Heb.6:7,8.)

B. HE DOES NOT FORGIVE WICKED OR UNREPENTANT OFFENDERS:

Isa.22:12-14 This iniquity not...purged from you till you die

Mat.12:31,32 [Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit--rejecting Jesus, Jn.15:26--not forgiven now or ever]

Rom.1:29-32 They which commit such things are worthy of death (See also Rom.2:2,3 ; Heb.10:26-31.)

C. SOMETIMES INTERCEDING PRAYER WILL NOT MAKE HIM FORGIVE:

(See Jer.7:16; 14:7-12; 16:5; Compare Jer.15:1 & Ezk.14:14,18,20.)

D. IT IS RIGHT AND GODLY TO HATE THE ANTI-GOD WICKED:

Eccl.3:8 A time to love, & a time to hate

2Chr.19:2b Shouldst thou help the ungodly, & love them that hate the Lord? Therefore is wrath upon thee

Psa.26:5 I have hated the congregation of evildoers

Psa.97:10 Ye that love the Lord, hate evil

Psa.139:21,22 Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate Thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies

E. THE UNREPENTANT WICKED ARE NOT FORGIVEN & MUST PAY FOR THEIR EVIL-DOING:

2Thes.1:6-9 It is a righteous thing with God to (pay back) tribulation to them that trouble you

Rev.6:9-11 [Saints in Heaven pray for God to avenge their blood on the wicked who killed them]

Rev.16:5,6 Thou art righteous, O Lord...because Thou hast judged ...for they have shed the blood of saints

(Caution: Pro.25:21,22; Rom.12:19,20; Deut.32:35.)

(See also Gen.6:5-7,11-13; 7:21-23; 2Pet.2:4-6; Jude 6, 7,14,15.)

12. EVEN ERRING CHRISTIANS MUST REPENT TO BE FORGIVEN:

A. NO OBLIGATION TO FORGIVE UNREPENTANT BRETHREN:

Lk.17:3 If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; & if he repent, forgive him (See also Mat.18:15)

(See also Rom.16:17; 1Cor.5:11,13; 2Thes.3:6,14; Tit. 3:10; 2Jn.10,11 re: not forgiving those who wilfully sin against the truth)

B. THERE IS A TIME TO BE FIRM:

1Cor.4:18,21 What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or love
Tit.1:13 Rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith

C. SHOW MERCY & PATIENCE IN ORDER TO HELP THEM REPENT, & DO NOT PARDON THEM UNTIL THEY DO:

Lk.13:6-9 [Parable of patiently tending the unfruitful tree, warning it will be cut down if it doesn't respond]
Rom.2:3-6 [Don't mistake God's patience for forgiveness; "the goodness of God" is to "lead thee to repentance"]
(See also Gal.6:1)

D. SERIOUS OFFENDERS MUST CHANGE, NOT MERELY BE "SORRY":

Isa.55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way...& let him return unto the Lord, & [then] He will have mercy...& pardon
Mat.3:8 Bring forth fruits meet for (worthy of) repentance
Mat.3:10 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down [judged] (See also Mat.7:19; Lk.3:8,9.)
(See also Psa.51:10; 101:3; Jer.3:10b; Hos.6:4.)

E. THEY MUST CONFESS THEIR SIN & ASK FOR FORGIVENESS:

Psa.32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee...& Thou forgavest
Psa.86:5 Thou, Lord, art good, & ready to forgive; & plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee
Acts 3:19 Repent ye...that your sins may be blotted out
1Jn.1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful...to forgive
2Cor.2:6-8 [After punishment] ye ought to forgive him, lest [he] be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow

F. DON'T USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO BE UNFORGIVING:

Mat.5:22 Whosoever is angry with his brother without a [legitimate] cause shall be in danger of the judgment

G. GOD STILL LOVES THE WAYWARD, & YOU SHOULD TOO:

Psa.89:30-33 I will visit their transgression with the rod...[but] My lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him

2Thes.3:15 Count him not as an enemy, but admonish as a brother
(See also Jam.5:19,20)

H. WHEN THEY REPENT, HE WILL LOVE THEM FREELY:

Hos.14:4I will love them freely: for Mine anger is turned away from him

SPECIAL CHAPTERS:

1Cor.13; 1Jn.4.

Re edited by Jerry Finch AMMC 2017