

Daniel Perrin – L2: Covenantal Love – Wednesday, January 8: Mercy Forfeited

1. Here is ONE way we can forfeit salvation
 - (Matthew 18:21–35) Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
 - He could NEVER EVER repay his debt.
 - He had it all — He had been justified / Forgiven His debt / Free and clear
2. Lessons from Christ's Object Lessons and Steps to Christ
 - **COL 251.1** – "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." [Matthew 6:15](#). Nothing can justify an unforgiving spirit. He who is unmerciful toward others shows that he himself is **not a partaker of God's pardoning grace**. In God's forgiveness the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love. The tide of divine compassion flows into the sinner's soul, and from him to the souls of others. The tenderness and mercy that Christ has revealed in His own precious life **will be seen** in those who become sharers of His grace. But "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." [Romans 8:9](#). He is **alienated from God**, fitted only for eternal separation from Him.
 - Whoever belongs to Christ will also have the Spirit of Christ.
 - So here is a sign of whether we belong to Christ, do we have His spirit?
 - He has a spirit of mercy / He grants forgiveness / He is tenderhearted
 - **COL 251.3-4** – It is true that he may once have received forgiveness; but **his unmerciful spirit shows that he now rejects God's pardoning love**. He has separated himself from God, and is in the same condition as before he was forgiven. He has denied his repentance, and his sins are upon him as if he had not repented.
 - This is a reminder that we are not just saved in the past – Once saved, always saved.
 - **Revelation 3:5** – He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
 - THE QUOTE CONTINUES *We are not forgiven because we forgive, but as we forgive. The ground of all forgiveness is found in the unmerited love of God, but by our attitude toward others we show whether we have made that love our own. Wherefore Christ says, "With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."* [Matthew 7:2](#).
 - What comes OUT SHOWS what is INSIDE
 - If there is no forgiveness coming out, we have not received God's forgiveness and the change that comes along with it.
 - If limited forgiveness comes out, then we only allow a limited amount of God's life-changing forgiveness to come in.
 - If reluctant forgiveness comes out, making them pay a little bit to know how they have hurt us, then it shows that we only accept a little bit of God's power in our own life, but we hold on to hope that we can pay for our misdeeds by being good enough — we don't trust Christ
 - **COL 249.2** – *If your brethren err, **you are to forgive them**. When they come to you with confession, you should not say, I do not think they are humble enough. I do not think they feel their confession. What right have you to judge them, as if you could read the heart? The word of God says, "If he repent, forgive him. And if he trespasses against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."* [Luke 17:3, 4](#). And not only seven times, but seventy times seven—just as often as God forgives you.
 - Even if they never repent and ask for your forgiveness, we can forgive them in our heart and be ready to GRANT FORGIVENESS immediately when they ask.

3. From **Steps to Christ – “The Privilege of Prayer” 97.1**
 - *“When we come to ask mercy and blessing from God we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts. How can we pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,” and yet indulge an unforgiving spirit? [Matthew 6:12](#). If we expect our own prayers to be heard we must forgive others in the same manner and to the same extent as we hope to be forgiven.”*
 - That sacrifice on the altar secured forgiveness for you for the greatest sin AND the least sin.
 - There was no defectiveness in Jesus’ forgiveness of you!
 - Mercy (BY DEFINITION) means that the object of mercy IS UNDESERVING
 - That’s the way it was when you received mercy.
 - So shall it be when you show mercy.
 - Humble forgiveness softens people and shows them a picture of Jesus
 - People are converted by unexpected forgiveness / mercy undeserved.

4. BUT HOW?
 - **STC 121.1** – *If we keep uppermost in our minds the unkind and unjust acts of others we shall find it impossible to love them as Christ has loved us; but if our thoughts dwell upon the wondrous love and pity of Christ for us, the same spirit will flow out to others.*

5. STATEMENT FROM THE LESSON: *“Although God’s compassion and mercy never run out, one can finally reject, even forfeit, the benefits of God’s compassion and mercy.”*
 - When we refuse to forgive others – we are clamping off the channel through which we receive forgiveness from God.
 - We need that channel open — Is there anyone God is asking you to share HIS mercy with today?

Our High Calling, 370.3 – If there have been difficulties, ... if envy, malice, bitterness, evil surmisings, have existed, confess these sins, not in a general way, but go to your brethren and sisters personally. Be definite. If you have committed one wrong and they twenty, confess that one as though you were the chief offender. Take them by the hand, let your heart soften under the influence of the Spirit of God, and say, “Will you forgive me? I have not felt right toward you. I want to make right every wrong, that naught may stand registered against me in the books of heaven. I must have a clean record.” Who, think you, would withstand such a movement as this?

- **James 2:13** – *For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*
- **2 Samuel 22:26** – *With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; with a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;*
- **Luke 6:35-36** – *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*
- **Proverbs 14:21** – *He who despises his neighbor sins; but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.*
- **Matthew 5:7** – *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*
- **Matthew 7:1-2** – *“Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*
- **Matthew 7:12** – *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*
- **Galatians 6:2** – *Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*
- **Ephesians 4:31-32** – *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*