

## Living Debt Free

### Philippians 1:27

<sup>27</sup>Whatever happens, **conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.** Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel

### How we live matters

**In Leviticus 19** The LORD commanded Moses to tell the Israelites: “Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.”

### The Lord’s Prayer

#### Matthew 6:5-15

*"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

<sup>9</sup>*"This, then, is how you should pray:*

*" 'Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,*

<sup>10</sup>*your kingdom come,  
your will be done*

*on earth as it is in heaven.*

<sup>11</sup>*Give us today our daily bread.*

<sup>12</sup>***Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.***

<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.'

<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

### **Matthew 6:12,14**

12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>14</sup>For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

### **1 John 1:7-10**

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

### **We must confess our sins**

**Verse 9** tells us that we must confess our sins in order to be forgiven. So now we see a further aspect to forgiveness: confession. To be forgiven we have to:

- Forgive others
- Confess our sin

### **John 16:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin

Remember we sin in our conscience and it's there that we are convicted by the Holy Spirit of our sins.

### **Hebrews 9:14**

*<sup>14</sup>How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

See also: **Hebrews 9:9; 10:22; 13:18**

### **Revelation 3:19**

*<sup>19</sup>Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.*

### **Mark 11:25-27**

*<sup>25</sup>And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*

### **Psalm 66:18 (NASB)**

*<sup>16</sup>Come and hear, all who fear God,  
And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.*

*<sup>17</sup>I cried to Him with my mouth,  
And He was extolled with my tongue.*

*<sup>18</sup>If I regard wickedness in my heart,  
The Lord will not hear;*

*<sup>19</sup>But certainly God has heard;  
He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.*

*<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God,  
Who has not turned away my prayer  
Nor His lovingkindness from me.*

## The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

### Matthew 18:15-35

To understand this parable we must go back to the beginning: **Verse 1**

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2</sup>He called a little child and had him stand among them. <sup>3</sup>And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup>"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. <sup>6</sup>But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

<sup>7</sup>"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! <sup>8</sup>If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

<sup>15</sup>"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. <sup>16</sup>But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup>"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup>"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

## **Verses 21-22 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

70 x 7 = 490 But who's counting??

That's how we live debt free- by forgiving others.

*23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.*

*24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.*

*26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. ( a hundred pence) He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.*

*29"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'*

*30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.*

*33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*

*35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."*

Look how forgiving our Lord is:

**Psalm 86:5 (NASB)**

*<sup>5</sup>For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.*

Jesus Christ, as he was hanging on the cross said,  
*“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”*

**To summarize**

We have learnt this evening that

- We must acknowledge and confess our sins,
- We must also forgive others. Our forgiveness is dependant on that.
- We must forgive our brother from the heart with love and humility.
- God hears our prayers when there is no wickedness in our hearts.