

**Sermon Series: TRANSFORMATION**  
**Sermon: Giving Up Your Right to Get Even**  
**Text: Colossians 3:1-15**

**Discussion Questions:**

- What do you think it means when you hear someone declare that they are going to “get even” with another?
  - Is this a good thing?
  - What emotions are involved with wanting to get even?
  - Is there ever a time when getting even is the right thing to do?
  - Along these lines...do people have the right to get even?
  - Is getting even the same thing as revenge?

**Examination:**

Read **Matthew 6:7-15**.

- These are, of course, familiar verses that include the Lord’s Prayer. So familiar, in fact, that it is very easy to read them or recite them without giving real thought to what, exactly, is being said or read. To what extent has this been true for you? Is it possible to turn this prayer into the very thing (“*babbling like pagans*”) that Jesus warns against in verse 7?
- Jesus said in verse 9 that this is “how” we are to pray - not “what” we are to pray. Is there a difference? Does this change the way we ought to view this prayer?
- This prayer is the first time that Jesus teaches us that we are to call God our “Father.” How significant is that?
- If you were to single out a “big idea” from this prayer, what would it be?
- Might verses 14 and 15 lead us to conclude that forgiveness was in Jesus’ heart as possibly the key concept we are to consider when praying this prayer?
- Do we give up our right to get even with someone when we forgive them?
- Most of us, without even realizing it, probably attach some qualifications to verses 14 and 15. We can easily insert the phrase “*unless they...*” into what Jesus said. We ought to forgive others, unless they \_\_\_\_\_. How might people fill in that blank?
- Is it fair for God to say that if we don’t forgive others their sins - that He won’t forgive us our sins?
- Is it fair for us to ask God to forgive us our sins if we’re not willing to forgive others?
- How powerful is the temptation to hold on to a bitter, revengeful spirit? Might this be one of the temptations that Jesus was referring to in verse 13?

Read **Leviticus 17:10-11 & Hebrews 9:11-22**.

- For anyone who has read through the entire Old Testament, it is obvious that blood plays a prominent role. We read about the deaths of thousands upon thousands of animals on the altar. The blood of these animals is described as an “atonement” or a “sacrifice.” How does Leviticus 17:11 help us understand why these animals die, and how atonement takes place?

- People can often trivialize - or “make light” of sin. Does the shedding of blood, and the sacrifice of life, change the way we ought to view the consequences of sin?
- Hebrews 9:12 indicates that a high priest can only enter “The Most Holy Place” by the blood of goats and calves (see Leviticus 16). Why would a goat or calf need to die in order for God to extend forgiveness on the Day of Atonement?
- Hebrews 9:14 sums up the reason for all of the blood that was shed throughout the Old Testament - and points directly at Jesus and the cross. Discuss this. Does this make sense to you? Do you find it confusing? Do you think most Christians understand the significance of this?
- Hebrews 9:23 brings us back to the critical and most important word: *forgiveness*. Forgiveness clearly isn’t casually given - void of sacrifice. It’s quite the opposite. Forgiveness is the most costly thing that exists. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. Does this impact your understanding of forgiveness?

Read **Colossians 3:1-15**.

- Verse 3 says that we have “*died...and our lives are now hidden with Christ in God.*” When do we “die”? How do we “die”? Does a person have to die to be a child of God? Are there people who consider themselves Christians who haven’t died?
- What does it mean for Christ to “*be our life*” (verse 4)?
- How do we “*put to death*” the things that belong to our earthly nature (verse 5)? Does this involve blood? Does this have anything to do with the sacrifices we read about in the Old Testament?
- Does this act of “putting to death” include receiving forgiveness?
- Is it unreasonable for God to ask us to “*forgive one another*” with respect to any grievance that we might have against others (verse 13)?
- What is the basis for this forgiveness? It has to be more than just an act of kindness - since there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. How does forgiving others lead us to faith in Christ?
- What is the connection between extending forgiveness - and allowing the peace of Christ to rule in your heart?

**Application:**

Take some time this week to consider what the Bible teaches about forgiveness in light of your earthly desire to “get even” with people who have hurt you in your past. Understand that Jesus shed His perfect blood on the cross to forgive you - and He shed his blood to forgive others as well. Forgiveness - in this way - is a supreme act of faith. It drives you to remember what Jesus has already done for you. Only in this way can you truly forgive others.