

The Second Most Important Fruit, Forgiveness!

Fruitopia, Part 6

Slide Notations

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind!”

Ever noticed? When it comes to spiritual growth, people just want to know “what can I do!” Doing something doesn’t bring growth... Doing something only proves you have the skill set to accomplish a task! Doing some things can deceive you! Doing something “grown up” doesn’t mean anything has truly changed inside!

Transformation comes... By renewing your mind... not “doing...” If week by week we challenge your mind, ways of thinking, conclusions... Have chance to accomplish only goal...

Whom He foreknew He predestined to be transformed into the image of His dear Son that He would be the first of many, living the good, acceptable and perfect will of God! **R8.29, 12.2**

Knowing God’s will... I am bound to say what He says to me in a very direct way (w/mnemonics, PPT, clips) so that I can make it obvious, “seeable,” as I should... **Col 4.3,4**

We can handle it! Have much more of ourselves to give! Times demand it! Don’t want you looking back at me in heaven wondering why didn’t speak up!

“Knowing we will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive our rewards, good or bad, we use all means to induce men to believe!” **2C5.10,11**

“Being allowed by God to handle the gospel we speak out, not to please men but God who tries our hearts!” **1Th2.1-8**

“When I use uncompromising language is it to please men or God? If at this time I was laying myself out to please men I would not qualify as a slave to Jesus!” **Gal 1.10**

Only when... Our minds are renewed can we be set for transformation... Only when the way we think is changed do we begin acting out of His divine nature in us! We can “do” and not “be” Or we can “be” and always “do” Only when we are transformed - do we begin bearing the fruit that glorifies God and remains for all eternity!

And that’s Fruitopia!

So now... *After the concept* of Fruitopia: being grafted into the Vine, unfruitful branches cut off, fruit bearing branches being pruned, all to bear the fruit that glorifies God and remains eternally... *After Fruitopia’s first-greatest-fruit* : our natural and spiritual kids bearing the image of God...

We come to the second most important fruit of the Vine... Forgiveness!

Forgiveness... The Vine is full of it... “God exalted Jesus to be Savior, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins!” **A5.31** “Salvation in no other!” **A4.12** “Son, be comforted; your sins are forgiven you.” **Mt 9.2** “Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace. **Lk7.48-50** “I do not condemn you; go and sin no more!” **J8.11**

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. **R4.7,8** Chosen for holiness, destined to adoption, accepted in the Beloved, in Jesus we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins... **E1.4-7 Col 1.14**

Forgiveness... Dead in sins and unredeemed flesh, you are quickened together w/Him, forgiven of all trespasses; He blotted out the list of broken laws that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; **Col 2.13,14** "He is the payment for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world!" **1John 2.2** And, "Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." **E4.32**

Forgiveness... The branches must carry it... "Every branch in Me that bears not fruit God cuts off; every branch that bears, He prunes to bear more fruit! **J15.2** "if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." **Mk 11.26** "your sins, they separate us!" **Is 59.2**

Forgiveness... Others must be able to eat of it's fruit! "Forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father may forgive you your trespasses. **Mk11.24ff** Take heed: If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and seven times turns to you, saying, I repent; you will forgive him." **Lk17.13,14**

Forgiveness... Done 2,000 yrs ago! "No more sacrifice for sin!" **Heb10.26** "Paid for the past, present, future sins of the whole world!" Not going back for each generation... When we ask forgiveness for our sin today, God looks back at the Cross! Price "Paid!" And it's the same way we forgive those who trespass against us! Even while they are still our enemies, we look back at the Cross – where the price for sin was paid!

It is wrong, and ridiculous, to withhold forgiveness because the work of the Cross, the work from the Cross, is finished! (Who are you that disputes with God on the issues of mercy? Rom 9.18-20)

Dynamic #1 Positional Truth: People are forgiven whether or not we want them to be and we should be found on God's side!

Price has been paid! No other price can be paid! No other sacrifice can be made! *Resisting the finished work of the Cross, by withholding forgiveness, makes us the enemy of God!*

With that said... *Forgiveness must be appropriated for salvation!* "He that calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **R10.13** "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by Me." **J14.6** "there is salvation in no other name whereby we must be saved." **A4.12** *There is no Biblical case for "All is Paid so all are Saved" universalism!*

Forgiveness must be appropriated for our regular cleansing! "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness!" **1J1.9** "Have mercy on me according to your loving-kindness and tender mercies. I acknowledge my sin against you... purge me... create in me a clean heart..." **Ps 51.1-12** *No biblical case for "He just knows..."*

Forgiveness must be granted immediately when appropriated by our transgressors! "If your brother sins against you and he repents and turns and asks 7x day, forgive him." **Lk17.3,4** "How many times should I forgive him? Seven? Not seven, but seventy times seven! Have compassion on them like I have had on you!" **Mt18.21,22,33**

Sometimes... We hesitate to forgive because we don't think we can forget... *Don't have to!* Sometimes we hesitate because we think forgiveness means restored fellowship... *It doesn't!*

Forgiveness is the completed work of the Cross... Restoration of my mind, heart, and connection, is based on time enough to sample the fruit of others repentance!

Dynamic #2 Realized Truth: Freed from sin we should be free of the sin of unforgiveness!

“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” **R14.23** “Your sins separate us.” **Is59.2** “Must be a doer and not hearer only or we deceive ourselves!” **Jam 1.22**

Withholding forgiveness does not do as much damage to the “unforgiven” person as it does to us, playing god and warring against God!

Have you heard? “Forgiving others frees us more than it does them!” If we get off His throne, He’ll rule from it! Forgiving them frees God to go to work on them! “No revenge like forgiveness!” If you won’t deal w/your enemies, He will! “Wait ‘til your father gets home!” It is true, forgiveness frees us!

It is wrong, and ridiculous, to withhold forgiveness because it makes me stop to do things I was not created to do!

Dynamic #3 Unforgiveness reveals that we don’t trust God with our life circumstances! Thursday headline: “Bill Clinton still mad at Kennedy’s and Richardson” (election) If He knew God puts up/takes down **R13.1** Wouldn’t be mad at them! And if we knew, life and times of believers in the hand of the Lord... **Ps23, 2Ch16.9** Wouldn’t be so concerned about others

If my Redeemer is working all things together for my good then it is wrong and ridiculous to be so concerned about what others have done to me!

Forgiveness... We love it... the freedom... Connected to the Vine, full of forgiveness, we can give what we have been given... As long as we have been “transformed by the renewing of our mind.” When we think like God, we will act like Him! When we act like Him, others will see and taste the fruit...

And that’s Fruitopia!