

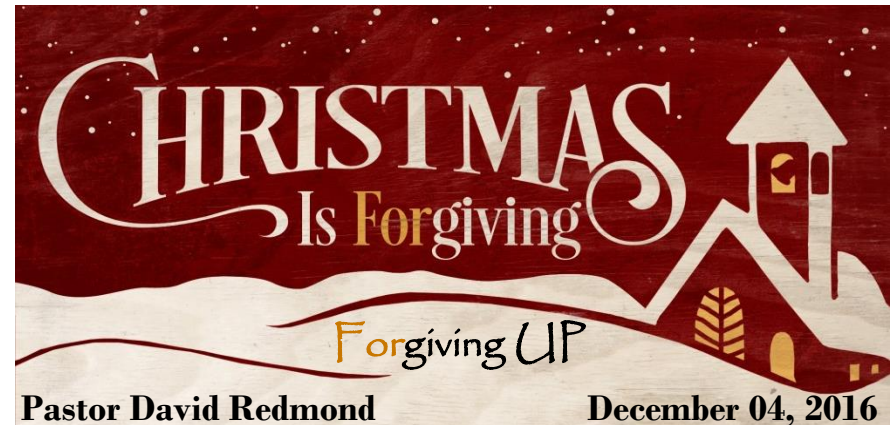
Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. <sup>2</sup>You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup>All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup>But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup>that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup>For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup>Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.  
Ephesians 2:1-9 (NLT)

Dec. 04 Christmas is Forgiving UP – Encounter Mercy  
Dec. 11 Christmas is Forgiving OUT – Extend Grace  
Dec. 18 Christmas is Forgiving IN – Experience Hope  
Dec. 24/25 – The Promise of Forgiveness

Sermons available online @ [www.concordiawesleyan.com/sermons](http://www.concordiawesleyan.com/sermons)



Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32 (NASB)

*And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 (NLT)*

\_\_\_\_\_ is an intentional and voluntary act of faith that enables a victim to let go of an offense, attitude, or wound, while giving up negative emotions such as resentment, bitterness, and anger, with an increased ability to wish the offender well, through the power of Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ **is not getting what I deserve.**  
(The deliverance from judgment)

\_\_\_\_\_ **is receiving what I don't deserve.**  
(The extending of kindness and blessings to the unworthy)

### **Judges 14-15 – Lessons from the life of Samson**

There are some things I must give up in order to forgive like Jesus:

**I give up the right to carry an  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Burning with anger, he (Samson) returned to his father's home.  
Judges 14:19b (NIV)*

Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.  
<sup>21</sup> So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. James 1:20-21 (NLT)

**I give up the right to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them." <sup>4</sup> So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, <sup>5</sup> lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves.  
Judges 15:3-5 (NIV)*

Short-tempered people do foolish things, and schemers are hated.<sup>29</sup> People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness. Proverbs 14:17; 29 (NIV)

*So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death. <sup>7</sup> Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I swear that I won't stop until I get my revenge on you." <sup>8</sup> He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam. Judges 15:6-8 (NIV)*

**I give up the right to \_\_\_\_\_ others for my \_\_\_\_\_.**

*The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi.*

<sup>10</sup> The people of Judah asked, "Why have you come to fight us?"

*"We have come to take Samson prisoner," they answered, "to do to him as he did to us." Judges 15:9-10 (NIV)*

*Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?" He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me." Judges 15:11 (NIV)*

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)

**I give up the right to use a \_\_\_\_\_ to inflict further \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Samson said, "Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves."  
<sup>13</sup> "Agreed," they answered. "We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. <sup>14</sup> As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. <sup>15</sup> Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.  
Judges 15:12b-15 (NIV)*

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.  
Colossians 4:5-6 (NLT)

**I give up the right to \_\_\_\_\_ on to old \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, I've piled them in heaps! With the jawbone of a donkey, I've killed a thousand men!" <sup>17</sup> When he finished his boasting, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was named Jawbone Hill. Judges 15:16-17 (NLT)*

**\_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_ people.**

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. <sup>20</sup> Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. Romans 12:17-21 (NLT)