

**Ephesians Series: What is Your Life Mission? #28**  
**“God’s Unrequited Love”**  
Message Notes, July 2, 2023

**Ephesians 4:30-32 (ESV)** <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### 1. Grieving the Holy Spirit

- Grieving the Holy Spirit (30a)
  - a. Having never lived up to others’ expectations, this word feels heavy
  - b. To grieve *lypeō* : the imperative in the present tense with negation expresses the intention to prohibit a continuing, habitual act. The Holy Spirit, who testifies the truth to men, “makes the saints feel awkward when they lie to one another or speak vilely.” (Barth)
  - c. A different level of grief?
    - The difference between the grief of Yakult fans for Murakami Munetaka and the grief of his parents.
    - My parents’ grief: they grieved in my stead, not with condemnation or devaluation. They believed and hoped that one day I would be restored.  
**Romans 8:15-16** <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”
- Sealed for the day of redemption
  - a. The Holy Spirit is not only the guarantee that we will go to heaven (Ephesians 1:13c-14a, “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance,” but also strengthens our inner man, guiding and nurturing us to choose the right way of life (3:16) and helps us to serve each other in unity (4:3) and fulfill the mission given to us (4:12).
  - b. I have been protected by the Holy Spirit “from the paths of depravity and ruin.” (Personal Journal entry 6/29)
    - The experience of my teacher Mr. Hashimoto’s mother

### 2. Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving

- Remove all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice (31)
  - a. Bitterness *pikria* is a “deep-seated resentment” that rejects any request for reconciliation; a stubbornness that will never let go of wounds received.
  - b. Wrath *thymos* is an anger that burns like straw all at once and subsides quickly. Anger (*orgē*), on the other hand, is habitual and vindictive anger. If the former is left unchecked, it often festers, fermenting and developing into a hatred that is hard to heal.
  - c. Clamor *kraugē* is the outburst of emotion voiced by an angry person. The word slander *blasphēmia* is often used in reference to blasphemy towards God, but when used in reference to a person, it indicates an intentional insult and the slander of another person.
  - d. Malice *kakia* means hurtful thoughts and resentment, like roots that reach deep within the heart, whether in the mind (a, b above) or in spoken words (c above).
    - The Holy Spirit knows the “repulsiveness” that lurks in our hearts (thoughts) and He speaks to our hearts on various occasions, telling us to “take these things off.” However, this is not easy to do.
    - In our minds, we ask “Why do I alone have to live this kind of life? How long will this persist? Why can I not be fortunate like that other person?”
- How can we become kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving to each other?
  - a. “Sermon on the Plain” in the Gospel of Luke **Luke 6:27-36** <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. <sup>32</sup> “If

you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

b. How have you experienced Christ’s forgiveness?

- Completely forgiven and forgotten

**Isaiah 43:25** “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

**Jeremiah 31:34** “And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

**Micah 7:18-19** <sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

- Forgiven by the perfect substitute

**Genesis 22:7-14** <sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

➤ This story beautifully overlaps the conflict between Abraham and God the Father:

- ① The grief of a father who loses his beloved and only begotten son (compassion);
- ② The perfect substitute without blemish (perfection of forgiveness);
- ③ God’s work that surpasses our understanding and imagination.

➤ Where is Mount Moriah, the place where God provided a substitute in place of Isaac? The hill of Golgotha where Jesus was crucified, where the Temple still stands today...this is a work of God.

➤ From the perfection of this plan we can understand how complete our forgiveness is. Abraham, whose heart was about to be torn apart because of the nightmare that was about to come upon his own child, was touched by God’s deep care and his heart was transformed by gratitude. We need to experience this kind of grace.

- Experiencing the grace of forgiveness

➤ The word “forgive” appears 200 times in the NT, 25 times using *charizomai* and 175 times using *aphieme* (leave it with God). The word *charizomai*, derived from grace *charis*, is used here, and it means God’s unilateral gracious forgiveness to mankind, teaching that those who experience the amazing grace of God’s forgiveness will be able to forgive others by that same grace.

## Conclusion

Have you ever experienced God’s love? If not, you can sincerely ask to. The primary reason God created you and put you on earth was for you to experience the grace of His forgiveness.