



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley. Reg. Charity no. 1081321

☎ 01444 400521 – Email: fellowship@broadfield.org.uk – Web: www.broadfield.org.uk



NewsFlash!

Sunday 11th October 2026

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall

Worship: Viv Evans

Amy Orr-Ewing: "Forgiveness: A Challenge to a Punitive World"

*We offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our worship today
If you would like to know more about us, please ask one of the leaders*

Monday 9.30am: Little Lambs Play & Sing Toddler Group in the Social Hall

Tuesday 7.30pm: Home Group at Ben & Pauline's home

Wednesday 9.15am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall

Next Sunday 9.00am: Open up and set up hall for worship

9.30am: Prayer Meeting

10.00am: Tea & Coffee

10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall

Worship: Kevin Gordon

Amy Orr-Ewing: "Forgiveness: Biblical Forgiveness"

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Psalm 145:9 — "The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

Ezekiel 33:11 — "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live."

I've used these scriptures before, but I still find it difficult to explain to a non-Christian why God can forgive even the vilest offender.

Yet again, a non-Christian friend of mine, who believes in Jesus and understands a great deal about the Christian faith, has struggled with this question. Why should a paedophile or a murderer, whether they have killed one person or many, receive God's forgiveness? Surely that is grossly unfair and an injustice to their victims?

I've tried to explain that true repentance must be sincere, and that God sees the condition of our hearts. I've also explained that forgiveness doesn't mean escaping the consequences of our actions. People must still face justice and may serve lengthy prison sentences. But when someone genuinely repents and turns to God, they can be forgiven, changed and accompanied by God, even as they face those consequences. Yet my friend still struggles to understand.

I found myself talking to God, asking, "How can I explain your mercy, compassion and forgiveness in a way that might help her understand?" Then an illustration came to mind.

Imagine you're walking along a canal towpath and see a man walking ahead of you. You know him, as do many people in the town. He's a notorious paedophile and has just been released

from prison on licence. Suddenly, he slips and falls into the canal. He can't swim, and in desperation he reaches out his arm, shouting for help. What would you do? Would you turn away, thinking, "He's worthless scum. He's not worth saving. Good riddance"? Or would you reach out, grab his arm and do everything you safely could to save his life?

My friend might say, "But he still hasn't shown any remorse!" And I would reply, "You don't know that. And you don't know what might happen in his heart after someone has shown him mercy and compassion."

Saving his life wouldn't mean approving of his crimes, forgetting his victims or declaring him innocent. Nor would it mean that he should escape justice. It would simply mean recognising that, despite the terrible things he has done, his life still matters.

Perhaps this gives us a glimpse of God's heart.

God doesn't minimise sin, and His forgiveness doesn't make evil acceptable. But neither does He delight in writing people off as beyond redemption. He desires that they turn from their wicked ways and live.

We may find it almost impossible to imagine forgiving someone who has committed such dreadful acts. And we must never use God's mercy to silence victims, minimise their suffering or demand that they forgive before they are ready. But God's mercy is not a reward for being good. It is an invitation to turn away from evil and towards Him.

Perhaps the real question isn't whether some people are too wicked for God to forgive, but whether we can believe that God's love and power are great enough to redeem even those we find hardest to forgive.

Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'

(Matthew 19:26)