

EPHESIANS

Forgive & Forget

Ephesians 4:31-32

Do You Ever Look Back...

AND JEANS—ALL WIDE LEG AND SO PLUSH!



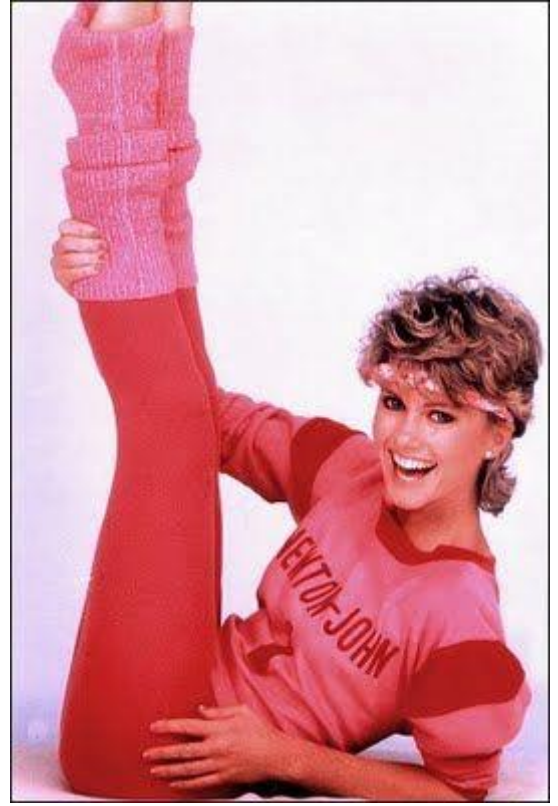
All jeans in Jr.-Misses', Tall Sizes

For whom the bells toll.



Ask not. They're for you. Our swinging bells have an ultra-slim fit, low rise and come in a ring-a-ding assortment of colors and fabrics. They're definitely becoming a novel American great. Talon zipper. \$6 to \$12. Apache shirts from \$6. Shoes from \$12. Higher in West.

his



At What You Were?

William Barclay:

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“Every Christian
might well pray that
God would teach
him how to forget.”

PART I



FORGET!

Ephesians 4:31

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“Let all bitterness and
wrath and anger and
clamor and slander be
put away from you,
along with all malice.”

A Comprehensive List EPHESIANS

1. Bitterness { Attitude
2. Wrath { Disposition
3. Anger { Disposition
4. Clamor { Manner of Speech
5. Slander { Manner of Speech
6. Malice { The Inevitable Result

A Progressive List?



6. Malice

5. Slander

4. Clamor

3. Anger

2. Wrath

1. Bitterness



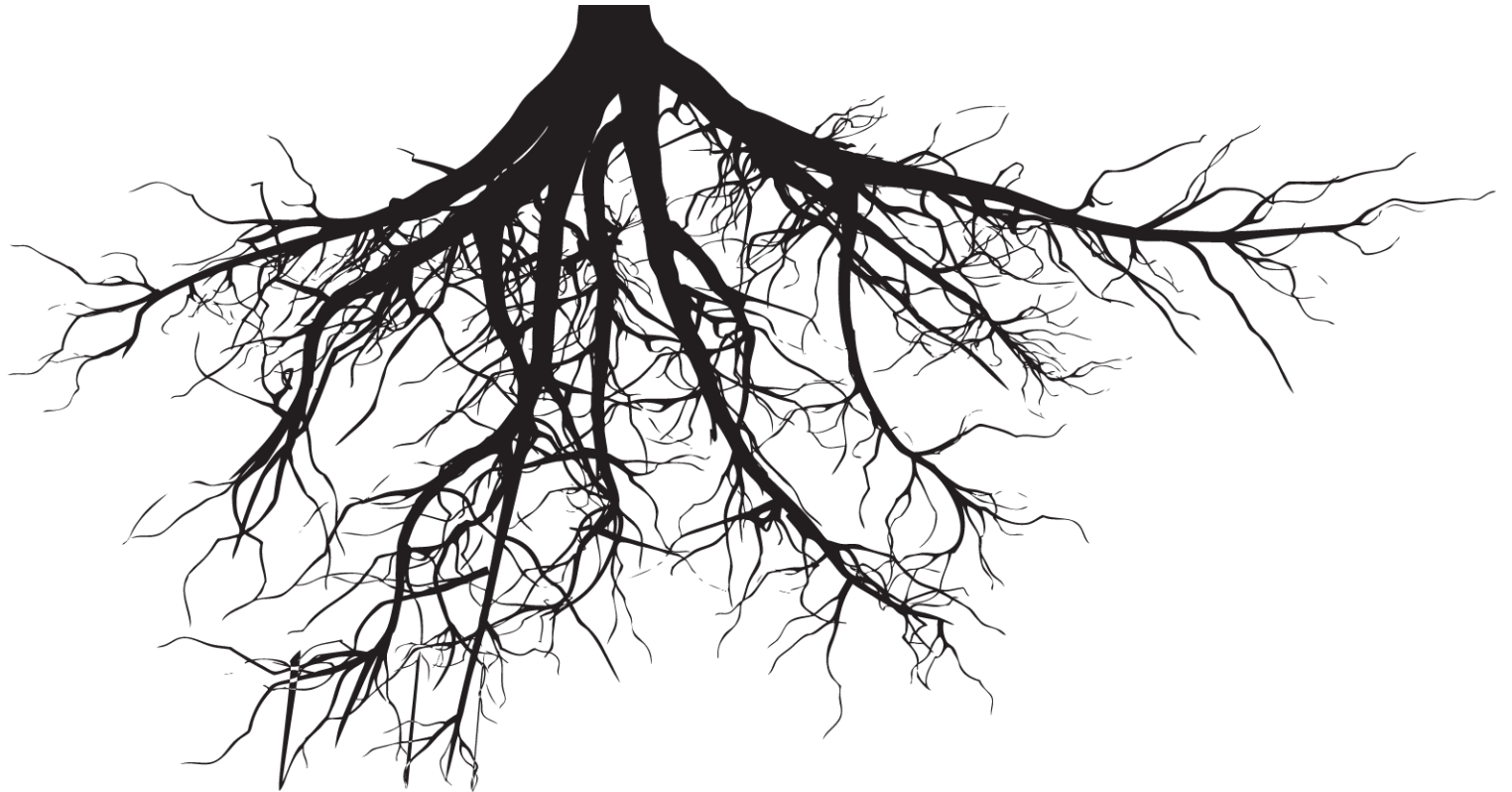
1. Bitterness

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πικρία
pikria

- The opposite of kindness; it harbors resentment; a spirit that refuses reconciliation
- Colossians 3:19 – “Husbands, love your wives and do not be *embittered* against them.”
- Bitterness is the root of this list.

Why Does One Become Bitter?



Hebrews 12:14-17



A Potential Problem



2. Wrath

EPHESIANS

θυμός
thymos

- Translated as wrath (15x), fierceness (2x), indignation (1x)
- **Outbursts of uncontrolled passionate frustration**
- Ephesians 2:3 linked that to the old self, as unbelievers are “by nature children of wrath.”

Acts
19:28-30

The Riot
in
Ephesus



3. Anger

EPHESIANS

ὀργή

orgē

- Most often translated as wrath (31 of 36 times).
- **Inappropriate, habitual, violent emotion and abuse**
- It is often associated with the wrath of God against sin in the New Testament.

The Danger of Anger

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Matthew 5:21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

4. Clamor

EPHESIANS

κραυγή
kraugē

- Literally, Crying; Shouting
- Paul is associating this action with wrath and anger in arguments and strife.
- Some translations render this word as “brawling” or “quarreling.”

Don't raise your voice,
improve your
argument.

~Desmond Tutu



5. Slander

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βλασφημία
blasphēmia

- **Damaging, impious, and reproachful speech**
- While we often rightfully associate blasphemy with speech against God (Rev. 13:1-6), we are all too comfortable with blaspheming our neighbor.

NAME CALLING



6. Malice

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κακία

kakia

- Paul writes, “along with all malice”
- **Malignity; Ill will; Desire to injure; Wickedness**
- This is the ultimate manifestation of the anger of v. 26 when Satan and our flesh take hold of it.

19b But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; **20** for the **anger (*kakia*)** of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

“put away”

EPHESIANS

αἶρω

airō

Fundamentally means “to lift with a view to carrying” but also means “to be swept away.”



FORGIVE

PART II

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Putting On the New

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The putting away of the
aforementioned evil
dispositions, words, and
actions can be accomplished
only by the acquisition and
development of the opposite
virtues.

Christian Characteristics EPHESIANS

1. Kind

2. Tender-hearted

3. Forgiving

1. Kind

EPHESIANS

χρηστός
chrēstos

- Virtuous; good; benevolent
- **A Defining characteristic of God (Ps. 25:7)**
“Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; According to Your *lovingkindness* remember me, For Your goodness’ sake, O Lord.”

According to...

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Galatians 5:22, it is a fruit of
the Spirit.

It is achievable only through
reliance on the Spirit, and it
is primary evidence for
one's salvation.

Luke 6:35

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“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 Himself is *kind* to ungrateful and evil men.”

2. Tender-hearted

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εὐσπλαγχνος
eusplagchnos

- It is a compound word:
 - *Eu* = to be well off, prosper
 - *Splagchnon* = bowels, intestines, (the heart, lungs, liver, etc.); “the gut”

Literally, *eusplagchnos* is “having strong bowels”

Have You Ever Read?

HUH?

Philippians 1:8 in the KJV

“For God is my record,
how greatly I long after
you all in the bowels of
Jesus Christ.”

To the Greeks, the bowels were regarded as the seat of the more violent passions, such as anger and love.

But to the Jews

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- The bowels were the seat of the tenderer affections, esp. kindness, benevolence, compassion.
- Hence, when Paul uses *eusplagchnos* here, he is referring to our heart and its tender mercies and affections, etc.

3. Forgiving

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χαρίζομαι

charizomai

To give graciously, give freely, bestow;
to forgive; graciously to restore one to
another; to preserve for one a person in
peril

A Broader Meaning

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- Forgiveness is in view, but the more common use of the phrase might be “being gracious to one another.”
- It fits here as well because graciousness is the antithesis of bitterness, anger, and wrath.
- In fact, I would argue that graciousness is the antidote to bitterness.

Romans 8:32

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“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him **freely give** us all things?”

Forgiveness is Hard

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- For one, a gulf exists between our knowledge and our will; we know God's forgiveness, but do not have the will to forgive.
- Secondly, if we forgive, does not justice evaporate? In fact, isn't this whole section of the letter too weak? If we show kindness and forgiveness, will we not be run over by a hostile world?



Forgiveness is NOT

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- “I’m sorry.”
- Assumed
- Automatic
- Temporary
- Conditional
- Without Grace

Sin Breeds Sin

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- Therefore, Christians are called to break the cycle by not retaliating, by not placing personal rights over other people.
- **This is part of dying with Christ.**
- The fact is the weak cannot forgive; only the strong in Christ have the resources to forgive, to give up self-defense.

Matthew 6:15

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“But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

This is the ultimate quality of the Christian.

Do We Do This?

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Demonstrating an attitude of constant forgiveness will greatly enrich a marriage.

It will strengthen and unify a church.

It will provide an example to the unbelieving world that we are who we say we are.

Why Do We Forgive?

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“just as God in Christ also
has forgiven you” (v. 32b)

This reality drives everything
we do in this life.

Colossians 2:13-14

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“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

To Forgive

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“just as God in Christ”
forgave means: just as
freely, generously,
wholeheartedly,
spontaneously, and
eagerly.

The Big Idea

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All the injuries that we have ever suffered because of the ill will of our fellow men can never be compared with the abuse Jesus, the sinless One, endured at the cross.

And every hurt that we have experienced at the hand of another person pales in comparison to the offense of our sin against a holy and righteous God.

And Yet...God Forgives.

Consider:

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It is our duty to forgive.

But that is not why we forgive.

We forgive in light of the forgiveness we
have been given.

**We forgive because we love our Lord, strive
to be like Him, and He has given us new life
and a divinely enabled capability to love
others in the face of sin.**

Let's Close with:

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1 Peter 2:21-25

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