

# DIGDEEPER

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Just As... by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ephesians 4:31-32 ([Listen Online](#))

## THE BIG IDEA

God has forgiven our sin because of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. And just as God loves us, so we should love others. As Christians, we must follow the example of Christ by putting away bitterness and malice in favor of forgiveness and loving-kindness.

**START A CONVERSATION** (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

What does it mean to forgive someone?

## SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Take time to look up the definition of each word from verse 31: bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice. Do you find that one of these consistently shows up in your own life? Which one is it, and where does that attitude or response come from?
- In Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus gives us a vivid picture of forgiveness. Take a moment to read the story, and then think about the debt you owed. What was it, and what did your Lord do with it? What are you doing with the debt that others owe you?
- Using the parable from Matthew 18, identify a “fellow slave” who owes you a past debt. Describe that debt. How and why can you release that person from the debt they owe?

## GO DEEPER

- In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus has much to say to us about compassion, but he also has something to say about himself. On this side of the resurrection, [we now know the ultimate Good Samaritan](#), and he changes everything about the story.
- God is full of undeserved loving-kindness toward us. AW Pink helps us understand what this means and [how God's loving-kindness shapes our relationship with him](#).
- “You must not keep [bitterness] in, and you must not share it. Surrender it to the Father, through the Son.” This [short, nine page booklet](#) from Jim Wilson covers the root and fruit of bitterness, as well as what we must do with it, in a very helpful way.
- Is there any reason to refuse forgiveness and cling to bitterness? Paul David Tripp argues that [there are certain benefits to unforgiveness](#).

## LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

On a piece of paper, write down the sins you have committed against God.

Seriously, write them out.

Now take that list of sins and spend time in prayer thanking God for his overwhelming loving-kindness toward you when what deserved was wrath. Because of Jesus, God no longer counts those sins against you. Instead, you stand before God covered in the righteousness of Christ—free to love God and others.