Theo Logic

Ephesians 4:17-32 #19 in our Ephesians Series March 10, 2013 Peter Hiett

[Peter is noticeably injured at the start of the sermon. He has a black eye and a large bandage on one of his hands.]

Message

Let's pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

Let's stop there, the rest isn't bad, it's just not what Jesus said. It's stuff that we added. It's interesting that Jesus ends with forgiveness. The good is forgiveness. The temptation of evil is unforgiveness, so let's pray that part again. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Amen.

Yesterday was the ninth anniversary of my father's death. I've been thinking about him a lot.



That photo must be about 1962. But it's not the way I remember him. This is how I remember him...



laughing in a boat with strange people.

Long about 1995 when he was about 75, he had quite a capacity for joy. By then, he had experienced a lot of pain. It's been almost thirty years now since my father was assaulted here in Denver. My father had come downtown to take care of some business, and something went terribly wrong. It was then that a group of men assaulted him with knives. They stabbed him in the chest, broke his sternum and several ribs. They knocked him unconscious and took a huge sum of money.

I was in California at the time. As my dad lay unconscious at Swedish Medical Center, my sister Lydia and I hopped on a plane and flew back to Colorado. When I first saw him, he literally looked dead—pale and lifeless; tubes and machines kept him alive, technically alive.

Dad had lost an immense amount of blood. And like Scripture says, "The life is in the blood." They had taken his life... and here's the question for the day? How do we forgive?

How can we forgive? If you were here last week, you were probably asking that question, whether you verbalized it or not... Last week, I told you about Becca and Kavitha and Kavitha's mother. Becca was a young woman from our church who went to India to work with the Dalit, the "untouchables." Kavitha was a four-year-old girl, severely abused by her mother, who would burn Kavitha, cut Kavitha, and tie her to a ceiling fan everyday for hours.

Becca found Kavitha near dead. She found her, rescued her, and then was forced to return Kavitha to her mother. That morning, she had prayed to be emptied and filled, but now she cried out to the Lord, "Why?" and she heard him say:

...I am here. I am in you. I am filling you. I am feeling the same anger and sadness you are feeling. As your fingers reach for her they become My fingers....And...I am in Kavitha. And I am her. I have been with her everyday tied to the ceiling fan; even now I feel pain in my hands, on my face, on my back. It is my eyes that you are looking into...And, even more, I am with her mother. For I have come to love the sinner, the prostitute, tax collector, and child abuser.

"What?" I cry, writes Becca. 'You are here in the horror? You feel Kavitha's pain and my pain, how can you possibly. . . . ?"

"Yeah, my love reaches that far. And just as I fill you, I dream of filling her, for I feel her pain, too."

"But I can't! I can't go to her. I hate her." [in other words: I can't bleed for her, I can't forgive her.]

"Yet even as these words pour from my mouth," writes Becca, "I know the Truth."

"And He says, 'Then let Me'. And He fills me. And He fills you. And He longs to fill..."

Last week, I imagine that many of you struggled with forgiving Kavitha's mother, but if you're like me, perhaps even more...(though you're scared to admit it and you don't know how to say it) you struggled with forgiving the Lord.

He longs to fill...but didn't He also allow her to be emptied? Jesus said, "let me"-allow me, release me. The Greek word "Aphiemi" can be translated "let" or "forgive" Well, how do we forgive?

Just a few years before my dad was assaulted downtown by strangers with knives, he was assaulted downtown by friends, with slander. In a room downtown, my dad was tried and removed from his church. They said it was theology, the truth is it was psychology. It was individuals wanting power and control. They took his life (what he had worked for, all that he had built for 15 years). They drew blood and they took his life.

Years later, in a truly miraculous way, God showed me that, on that day, I made a decision: "That will never happen to me." And so.... I hardened my heart and entered the ministry, that's not very logical, it's psycho-logical, it's nuts!

Last week, we preached about insanity. We preached that there is a psycho-logic: a soul logic, a self logic that governs individuals.

There's a Theo-logic, a God-logic that governs a Body.

Ephesians 4:17-25...[Peter tries to pick up his Bible but really struggles to do so because he has a large bandage on his finger.]

I'm sorry, I wasn't going to mention it, but I suppose I should explain the black eye and the bandages here on my left hand.

I was picking my nose... I've told my finger not to do it.

I was picking my nose driving down 6th Avenue near Sheridan.

I hit a bump and my left index finger jammed up my nose cutting the sensitive tissue in my nostril, and I began to bleed and it hurt my nose.

My nose was terribly offended, actually furious—furious that my finger would drain my nose of it's precious life. My nose whispered to my mouth saying "That's MY LIFE on your lip! Don't tell that damn finger, but I hate that finger, it's selfish, unthinking and ignorant"

My left arm heard the whisper and said, "I'm tired of sending blood to that finger. I send it warm blood full of oxygen, and it always comes back cold and lifeless. I'm tired of bleeding for that stupid finger."

My eyes said, "Peter usually uses his right hand. "My right hand said, "Yeah, I'm better than the left hand!" Nose, mouth, eyes, right hand and left arm, they slandered my finger and came up with a plan: My mouth, said to my finger, "Finger, I want to give you a kiss!" But when my arm raised my finger to my mouth, my mouth clamped down and almost bit my finger clean off, which infuriated my left hand, which is very close to that finger...

And then driving down the road, I just started beating the crap out of myself. My left hand gave my left eye a black eye! My finger was screaming, "Bite Me! Bite Me! I don't want to be part of this body anyway!" At that, my mouth bit my finger off and spit it out the window. The car was swerving all over the road.

Fortunately, a cop pulled me over and told my body it was breaking the law and it had better stop it or he'd arrest my whole damn body and throw every last member in jail!

Now, I know what some of you are thinking: "That's Psycho." Exactly. That's Psycho Logic. And you're thinking: Individual body parts don't have their own will. They have a common will.

....not hundreds of separate judgments, but just one Judgment. One choice.

... not hundreds of separate psycho logics, but one body logic.

You're thinking, "That didn't happen to your body!" And that's correct. But it did happen to Christ's Body..

Actually, it happened at a tree in a garden long ago.....

Tempted by the devil, Eve and that Old Adam *took* fruit from the tree of law to save and create themselves. And what they created was "psycho-logos"-sin. They took fruit, but you know, fruit is seed, and when it dies it gives birth to life.

Well anyway, there is and old Adam and a New Adam. The New Adam died on a tree and gave up his Spirit. He was planted in the ground like a seed and rose from the dead and He is "The Life."

God is uniting all things in Him. We are His Body. He is the Judgment of God:
The Decision of God,
The Word of God,
The Logos of Theos: The Theo Logic.
When my will surrenders to His will, I put Him on.

Ephesians 4:17-32

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God (Cut off from life, separated from life, they're DEAD) because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their [perosis] hardness of heart. (Due to their stone hearts, their hardness of heart, THEY are INSANE and DEAD) They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!-assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, [Literally: "old man." In Hebrew: "old Adam"] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, [Literally: "New Man." In Hebrew: "New Adam"] created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The cause of insanity is a hard heart and

The *cure* for insanity is a broken heart—a heart that's broken for love, a heart that's tender.

Psycho logos—my old self centered self—only feels it's own feelings and thus thinks it's own thoughts.

But *Theo Logos*—My New Self—Jesus Himself, feels what others feel and thinks for all.

Psycho logos is my sanity, which is insanity.

Theo Logos is God's sanity, which is Love and Life.

Theo Logos is Jesus. And WE are to PUT HIM ON.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, [literally, "The False," the false self, the false man] let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Speak the Truth...

It's only Theo Logical.

- -If a body doesn't speak the truth, one member to the next, it's *uncoordinated*, it's *epileptic*, it's *diseased* and *dead* or *dying*—not just one member suffers, *all suffer*.
- -Some people think forgiveness is *ignoring* the Truth, *covering up* the Truth, *hiding* the Truth
- -But forgiveness *exposes* the Truth. Forgiveness is the Truth, The whole Truth, The Truth about our SIN and the Truth about the righteousness of God.
- -Since we're "members, one of another," speak the Truth. Say: "Finger, you're hurting me! But I forgive you."
- -Since we're "members, one of another," speak the Truth. It's only logical...Theo Logical.

"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger... "

Now, Jesus didn't really get angry on His own behalf.

He did get angry on His Father's behalf. I don't think He was angry at His own Body. He did get angry at the things that divide His Body: slander and lies in His Body, the work of the accuser, the *diablos*, the devil.

My nose doesn't get mad at my finger. My whole body gets mad at the bump in the road. My nose forgives my finger and hates the bump; it's only Theo-logical:

"And give no opportunity to the devil."

Do you enjoy slanderous gossip? When you do, you're enjoying Satan and hating Christ. It's not Theo-logical; it's insane.

"Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."

If a part of my body just takes and never gives, that part is a cancer, a tumor, or a blood clot. Every part of my body must give blood in order to receive blood, and "the life is in the blood."

If a Body part "keeps it's life," it "loses its life."

If it keeps the blood and doesn't bleed, it dies.

It's only Theo-logical.

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Literally, "Let no sapros logos, dead logos, no psycho logos come out of your mouth..only Theologos-Grace."

To talk garbage about another is to talk garbage about yourself because we are one body, it's only Theological.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit is holy wind, and holy breath. When God breathed into the clay, Adam became a living soul. In a Body, the blood carries the Spirit to every cell, and there, the oxygen is burned, turning to energy and fire, and biologists call that, "life." The oxygen is delivered up and the toxins and carbon dioxide are washed away; the cell is cleaned by the blood—washed in the blood.

Every cell must lose that old life, that old blood to be filled with new blood, which is Mercy, which is Life. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to hate the flow of Mercy, which "marks" you and seals you for the Day of Redemption.

The mark of the beast is 666. It's a mark from the sixth day of creation. But the mark of the Spirit is Grace, Eternal life, from the seventh day.

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

It's only THEO-LOGICAL.

"Be kind to one another..." "It's His kindness that leads us to repentance" writes Paul. His kindness, is our weapon...against evil.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

How did God in Christ forgive me?

1. He forgave me before I ever sinned.

He forgave me before I sinned. I committed my first sin some time around 1962



He bore my sins in 33 AD, on the tree, in the garden.

He forgave me before I sinned, knowing that I would sin, almost like my sin was part of His program. He forgave me before I sinned and before I was even made. Actually, it's how I was made and am being made.

The word, translated "forgive" here is *Charisomai, Charis,* which means Grace.

I was created by His Word of Grace, who is Christ Jesus.

I was created by the TheoLogos.

I'm still being created by the TheoLogos.

As I confess my sin and receive God's Grace, I am watching myself being created by Grace.

Salvation is agreeing to your own creation.

Salvation is Faith in Grace.

Salvation is dying to the lie: "I am salvation" and resting in the truth: "God is Salvation-

Yashua, that is Jesus, the TheoLogos, the Word of God," *by* whom and *in* whom all things are created. He is the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the Cosmos."

Charizomai is how I am created, saved and sanctified. He forgave me before I could even ask to be forgiven.

How did God in Christ forgive me?

- 1. He forgave me before I ever sinned.
- 2. He forgave me before I could even ask.

But we say stuff like, "I can't forgive that person, unless they ask to be forgiven." You couldn't even ask for grace unless God had already given you Grace. "Forgive, as God in Christ forgave you."

How did God in Christ forgive me?

- 1. He forgave me before I ever sinned.
- 2. He forgave me before I could even ask.
- 3. He forgave me completely.

He forgave me before I asked; He forgave me completely.

Scripture says, "On Him the Lord has laid the iniquity of us all"

He forgives completely, and yet Jesus does say there is one thing that won't be "forgiven," but in that place He doesn't use the word "Charisomai," and so, there is no lack of grace. He uses the word "Aphiemi" which means "release," which we also translate as "forgive." So Jesus says, "If you don't release people from there sins, neither will the Father release you from your sins." Even though Christ paid for those sins (Charizomai.)

You know, maybe it's Grace that we are not released from our sins until we learn to release others of their sins. We preached on that topic last October 14th, you can watch that online if you like. Jesus said, "All sins will be forgiven me (aphiemi-released) except speaking against the Holy Spirit." The Spirit testifies to the Grace of God in Christ Jesus (Charisomai.) If you take credit for Grace, it's no longer Grace, you must return the credit, it's not forgiven; you are not salvation; God is Salvation. You can't buy Grace or own Grace or it's not Grace.

The Spirit is BREATH and the Spirit is FIRE.

The Spirit is LIFE and the LIFE is in the blood.

The Old Adam inhales the breath of God and refuses to exhale. He breathes in but won't breathe out.

The Old Adam refuses to breathe the Breath of God; He takes life but won't surrender life.

The Old Adam refuses to bleed and that can't be forgiven because forgiveness is bleeding, and bleeding is life; it's blood flowing to every member.

I'm saying, "I think the "unforgivable sin" is unforgiveness, and we've all committed it. And we must surrender it; it's the hatred of forgiveness, the hatred of Grace. Everything is Grace, and until we surrender to Grace, we're trapped in outer darkness, lies and illusion—the dominion of the devil. But even that is Grace that we would come to have ungrace, so that, "the Old Man might be destroyed and the Spirit might be saved on the Day of the Lord." 1 Corinthians 5:5.

That we might "forgive as we've been forgiven,"
That we might live.
Life is forgiveness, Charizomai.
Life is the dance of Grace, the movement of the Spirit.
Life is a river that flows from a tree, that is also a throne.

How did God in Christ forgive us? He died.

How did God in Christ forgive me?

- 1. He forgave me before I ever sinned.
- 2. He forgave me before I could even ask.
- 3. He forgave me completely.
- 4. He died for me.

The Life died. It's a mystery that I don't fully understand. "The Life" cried, "My God why have you forsaken me?" He "delivered" up His Spirit and died"

Death must be separation "The Life," was separated from "The Source of Life," His Father. He cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" His body was broken, His blood spilled out, shed for us. He gave His life for us, and He died for us. And we were already dead, "dead in our trespasses and sins," wrote Paul.

Jesus says, "Unless you drink my blood you have no life in you." We're dead, and yet terrified to die. Scripture says, "The devil keeps us in life long bondage through the fear of death," and yet we're dead. Remember what the snake said to Eve? Literally, "Dying you will not die." God had told Adam, "The day you eat of it, you will die."

We eat of it on the sixth day of creation. That's the day we are made. And this is that day for we're still being made. On the seventh day, we have *been* made—*finished*, and we've entered God's rest; that's the New Creation.

"In the day you eat of it you will die," so if you eat on the sixth day, you must be dead by the seventh day, the Sabbath day. "Dying but not dead," is to be stuck in the sixth day the 666 day. "Dying you will not die," sounds like heaven, but it's the definition of Hell. Death is separation.

At the tree in the garden, Adam chose "psycho-logos" and rejected "Theo-Logos." We chose "man is salvation," and crucified "God is Salvation." We took The Life and cut ourselves off from the Source of Life. [Peter pulls off an arm from the FrankenChrist]

The Bible calls this the first death. (All of our monster movies are about us, the walking dead, lusting for the broken flesh and shed blood of the living.) We're like an appendage that has been "cut off." It may contain nerves but ... cut off, psycho-logos. It may contain blood, but

dead blood, rather than blood, life, cut off. We're like a part cut off or a vessel that's clogged, like a heart that's suffering from "perosis," hardening of arteries. In the Old Testament, God says to Israel, "You have a heart of stone but one day, I'll give you a heart of flesh." If you have a stone heart, you're dead. That's the first death and we think it's Life. In fact, you call it "my life" and just by calling it "my life" you testify that you stole life, for Jesus is "the Life" and "the Life" doesn't belong to you; you belong to "The Life."

So, this is the first death, [Peter holds up a piece of PVC pipe, from the PVC FrankenChrist] a single vessel, a clogged vessel [Jar and vessel] separated from Life.

So, what's the second death? In the Revelation, it's described as a "lake of eternal fire" and God is eternal fire. His breath is fire and Life, Eternal Life. And the second death is "the death of death": Death is destroyed in the lake of fire; so, the death of death, is the death of what you think is life; the death of that arrogant, self-centered, independent old you.

Jesus said, "Believe in me and you'll never die," maybe because you've already died. Believing in Him is dying to your self. 1 John 5:14 and revelation 2:11 says, if we have faith we won't be hurt by the second death, because maybe we've already died the second death.

Revelation 14:13 says, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." Paul wrote, "It's no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me," Eternal Life in me, Spirit in me, Fire in me, flowing through my veins.

So, *this* is the first death, [Peter holds up a vessel, a piece of PVC pipe from the FrankenChrist] and this is the second death [Peter connects that piece of pipe to the FrankenChrist]: The death of death, which is Life—Communion. The first death is separation.

The second death is separation from separation, which is Life-Communion.

So how did God in Christ forgive me? He died for me and He bled for me, and He helps me bleed. At the tree in the garden, which we call the cross, we took His life, and yet He forgives His Life and there, He helps us to forgive.

He delivers up The Spirit. He bears our toxic old man to destruction. He descends into the "lower parts of the earth." He descends into the dark dead tombs that are our hearts, where God raises Him from the dead. "If we've been joined with Him in a death like His, surely we will be joined with Him in a resurrection like His," writes Paul.

Forgiveness is the death of death; forgiveness is Life.

Forgiveness is the dance of Grace, *Charizomai* of the Theo-Logos.

Forgiveness is losing your life and finding your Life.

In heaven, it's constant joy. In fact, the word *Charizomai* is from the word *Charis*, which also means "delight" or "joy." In heaven, it's constant joy and here on earth, it often feels like death...on a tree...death on a cross.

How did God in Christ forgive me?

- 1. He forgave me before I ever sinned.
- 2. He forgave me before I could even ask.
- 3. He forgave me completely.
- 4. He died for me.

"Be... tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

And Paul writes, "Be tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you."

If you've ever truly forgiven, you know that it sometimes feels like death, because you are actually giving your life. But if you don't forgive, you can't be forgiven. You are blaspheming the Holy Spirit; you are one of the dead that does not die; your soul is trapped in Hell, even if your body has turned to dust.

The people Jesus warned about Hell were people who knew *about* forgiveness and hated to forgive. How on earth can I find the strength to forgive? Maybe I can't...but Jesus can; my old man can't....but the New Man can. Like Becca said to Jesus, "I can't go to her, I can't forgive," Jesus said to Becca, "Let me; release me."

How on earth can I forgive? Well, I actually cannot forgive...BUT Jesus *can* forgive...in me. If someone takes your Life, they're not taking your Life, they're taking Christ's Life, because "He is the Life." So, if someone sins against you, they're really not sinning against *you*, they're sinning against Jesus. If you forgive, It's not you that's actually doing the forgiving, you're letting Jesus forgive in you. If you give your Life, it's not your Life that you are giving, it's Christ's Life, because "He is the Life."

TO FORGIVE is to be "joined with Him in a death like His and joined with Him in a resurrection like His."

TO FORGIVE is to die with Christ and rise with Christ. Forgiveness is bleeding, but it's not your blood that you're bleeding. You don't control the river; the river controls you.

How do I forgive those men that assaulted my dad with knives? How do I forgive those men that assaulted my dad with slander? How do I forgive those that took his Life and took my Life? How do I forgive God for letting it happen?



Well, I neglected to mention this earlier, but the men with knives were called surgeons. My dad had gone downtown to see the doctor. Something did go wrong: He had a heart attack in the doctor's office. They did knock him unconscious. They did break his sternum and several ribs. They did cut him. They did take a huge sum of his money...

They performed emergency open-heart surgery, removing four clogged vessels and replacing them with four clean vessels. They removed a heart of stone, and replaced it with a heart of flesh. His heart had grown hard and stopped bleeding. They helped him bleed. It was the death of death. It was life.

God is a Surgeon; He gives us His blood; He even gives us His heart.

Well the men who assaulted my Dad with slander weren't surgeons and weren't God. And yet, what they intended for evil God intended for good. He works everything for good. And grace is good. God was teaching my father to forgive, making him in His image with a tremendous capacity for joy.

God's church is a boat floating on the abyss full of many strange people, all of them, willing to forgive. God was teaching my father to forgive. And God was teaching me to forgive. And forgiveness is life. Life is Love and Love is happy.

I hardened my heart down at Central Presbyterian, where Dad was tried, and where the Sanctuary began. I hardened my heart deciding that I would never bleed. I hardened my heart, and God broke my heart, so my heart would bleed, and I would live. As many of you know, everything that happened to my father happened to me. And happened in such a way that I knew it was God. I felt like I was dying and sometimes still do, but it's the death of death and that's life. It's God my father teaching me to forgive.

You know, there's an immense amount of sin in this world and it's both outside of God's plan and outside of His control OR it is under His control and part of His plan.

Sin is sin, but I don't believe it's an accident. It was sin to take the fruit from the tree, but it wasn't an accident. It was sin to take Christ's life on the tree, but that was no accident. People will sin against you, and I don't think it's an accident. They may intend it for evil, but the surgeon intends it for good. He's teaching you to forgive. It feels like death, but it's the death of death: It's life. Some folks think that Jesus died so we wouldn't have to die. But Jesus died to help us die...so dying we would live. So we would forgive as we've been forgiven. God is making you in His image and God is Grace.

And now if you wonder: "Why did He have to do it this way?" I don't know. If we'd never known sin, perhaps we could never know Grace and God is Grace? But I don't know... I really don't know, but I do know this: One of the greatest experiences of my life, was standing by my father's bedside as his heart began to bleed and his skin began to change from deathly pale to that beautiful pink... and he opened his eyes and he looked at me and I looked at him and we looked at each other.

God creates us with forgiveness, and He uses us to create each other with forgiveness. And perhaps there's no greater joy than this: One day you will say to your greatest enemy, "In Jesus name, I forgive you." And he'll open his eyes, look at you and see you, and you will look at him and see him, and you will know each other...and that's life." The Logic of God—TheoLogic.

Communion

When we were dead, blind, and had made ourselves His enemies, He took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body which is for you. Take and eat, and do this in remembrance of Me." And He took the cup and having given thanks he said, "This cup is the Covenant in my blood shed for the forgiveness of sins; drink of it all of you."

This is the death of death. This is Life, and may you open your eyes and know. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Benediction

"Therefore be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you." Forgive as God in Christ forgave you. Unforgiveness is the devil's judgment; devil means "accuser." Forgiveness is God's Judgment; Jesus is God's Judgment; Theo-Logos is God's Judgment. Let's undo the work of the devil by letting God's Judgment be our Judgment. In Jesus' name, believe the gospel, Amen.

Disclaimer: The following document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.