



Oscar Chavez - Lead Pastor - 8/27/23

Series: Philemon V.17-25. "A Living Lesson on Forgiveness". Pt.4

*"Helping people experience the hope
found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus".*

"Pay it Forward."

What is this pay it forward thing?

Some people would say:

Pay it forward'...is a phenomenon that we see today, encouraging people to do acts of kindness towards others.

"Pay it forward" is an expression for describing when the beneficiary of a good deed repays it to others instead of repaying it to the one who did the good deed to him. So the concept is very old, but the phrase may have been changed, according to Wikipedia, by Lili Hardy Hammond in 1916 in her book *The Garden of Delight*.

There was a movie in 2000 called "Pay It Forward," and the lead line in the movie was, **"When someone does you a good deed, don't pay it back, pay it forward."** That is the idea.

Philemon

17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me.

19 I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!

20 Yes, my brother, please do me this favor for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ.

21 I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more!

Is this a biblical principle?

Matthew 10:5-8

⁵ Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: "Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, ⁶ but only to the people of Israel—God's lost people. ⁷ Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

GRACE.....

John 13:34-35

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

LOVE.....

Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

FORGIVE.....

Paul gives us some principals about paying it forward.

1. Treat others as if you are treating the one who did good to you. V.17

17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

2. Forgive or erase the debt, God will reward you. V.18.

18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me.

Galatians 6:9

⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

3. God doesn't expect you to pay it back but pay it forward. V.19

19 I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!

"We dishonor God by trying to pay him back for his good towards us."

4. Paying it forward will result in the encouragement of others. V.20

20 Yes, my brother, please do me this favor for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ.

5. If you are a child of God, it's expected of you to pay it forward V.21

21 I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more!

GRACE.... LOVE.... FORGIVE....

Paul concludes his letter.

22 One more thing—please prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that God will answer your prayers and let me return to you soon.

Paul's Final Greetings

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. 24 So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.

25 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Conclusion

Unforgiveness is hypocritical. To ask God to forgive me when I won't forgive others, it's to burn the very bridge I must cross.