

Kingdom Culture: Forgiveness Culture

Kingdom Culture is High Cost, High Reward culture. Therefore, it also bears benefits that last forever.

World culture is low cost, short-term reward culture. Therefore, it has tragic long-term consequences.

The Kingdom of God is built on a foundation of total and absolute forgiveness; freely received, and freely given.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' ²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' ³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. ³¹ So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. ³² Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. ³⁵ My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Forgiveness culture is high cost culture, but it sets the one who does the forgiving at liberty.

The alternative is to live in a low-cost, short term reward culture of resentment.

The reward of resentment is the sense of vindication you get from holding another's sins against them.

It stretches the debt into an undetermined amount to be repaid over an undetermined time period (never).

This is one way we can easily determine the spirit of any ideology.

Does it encourage peace and forgiveness, or does it operate on the basis of resentment?

Pashtun Wali- Hospitality, asylum, revenge (with patience)

Martin Luther King, jr. vs. Malcom X

Ezekiel 18:1-3

18 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ² "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'?"

³ As I live," declares the Lord God, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore.

Ezekiel 18:19-20

¹⁹ "Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity?' When the son has practiced justice and righteousness and has observed all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live. ²⁰ The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment

for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

The New Covenant is predicated on personal responsibility for sin, and personal responsibility for godly living.

For this reason, we cannot endorse the message of reparations for the sins of the fathers, though they were egregious.

John 8:31-36

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Refusing to forgive is a form of slavery, but forgiveness is the truth that makes us all free!

Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

What does anybody owe you? The money they took, the person you loved, your pride that they wounded, an apology?

Cancel every debt, and walk in the freedom that belongs ONLY to the sons and daughters of God!