

## **RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS**

### **NEW TESTAMENT. CHRISTIANITY.**

#### **New Revised Standard Version of the Bible<sup>1</sup>**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

#### **Romans 12,9-21 (also in Love and Peace)**

But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

#### **Matthew, 5,22-25**

Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.

#### **Luke 17,3-4**

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<sup>1</sup> Bible. New Revised Standard Version: <http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm>

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Matthew 5, 43-48 (also in Love)**

But if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but to some extent—not to exaggerate it—to all of you. This punishment by the majority is enough for such a person; so now instead you should forgive and console him, so that he may not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. I wrote for this reason: to test you and to know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 2,5-10**

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**Ephesians 2,14-18 (also in Peace)**

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

**Colossians 3,13-14 (also in Peace and Love)**

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**Ephesians 4,31-32 (also in Love)**

**TALMUD. JUDAISM**

**World Scripture<sup>2</sup>**

Israel's reconciliation with God can be achieved only when they are all one brotherhood.

**Talmud, Menahot 27a (also in Love and Friendship and Union)**

**Babylonian Talmud<sup>3</sup>**

The disciples of R. Nehunia b. Haqana put to him the same question, and he answered: I never honored myself by the disgrace of my neighbor, and I never went to bed with the curse of my neighbor (but reconciled myself to him before), and was liberal with my money.

["I never honored," etc. As it happened, R. Huna bore a *pickaxe*. R. Hana bar Hanilai took it away from him, and he wanted to carry it. He said to him: If it is your custom to carry such a thing in your town, do it; but otherwise, if I will be honored by your disgrace, I do not want it." I never went to bed." As Mar Zutra, when he went to bed, used to say: I pardon all the men who have vexed me. "I was liberal." As the Master said elsewhere that Job was liberal with his money; that is, he allowed the storekeepers larger profits than was necessary.]

**Babylonian Talmud. P. 76, chapter IV. Tract Megilla (Book of Esther) Book 4: Volumes VII. and VIII.**

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<sup>2</sup> Wilson, Andrew (Editor): *World Scripture. A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts*, International Religious Foundation, 1991. Available online: <http://www.unification.net/ws>

<sup>3</sup> Michael L. Rodkinson (Translator) (1918) : *The Babylonian Talmud on Internet Sacred Text Archive* (online document). Available online: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/talmud.htm>

To whom does God pardon iniquity? Him who pardons the wrongs of his neighbor toward him.

**Babylonian Talmud. P.77, chapter IV. Tract Megilla (Book of Esther) Book 4: Volumes VII. and VIII.**

There are four things which bear good fruit in this world, and yield greater benefits for the world to come, if man observes them. They are honoring of parents, conferring favors, reconciliation of adversaries, and, above all, the study of the Law.

**Babylonian Talmud. P. 136-137, chapter V. Tract Aboth. Book 5 (Vols. IX and X) (also in Sharing)**

An ordinary man shall be considered to your eyes great, if you have insulted him, until you shall have asked him to forgive you. This passage may also be so rendered: If others say something bad about thee, though it be of a serious nature, treat it as insignificant. But, on the other hand, if thou say something bad about others, though it be insignificant, thou shouldst regard it as serious and have no rest until thou beg pardon. Your behavior shall not be bad, for this is no praise for the Torah (which you possess, but let your behavior be good, for this is a praise for the Torah).

**Babylonian Talmud. P. 20, chapter I. Tract Derech Eretz-Zuta. Book 5 (Vols. IX and X)**

There are still others who say that the greatest hero is he who makes his enemy his friend.

**Babylonian Talmud. P. 85, chapter IV. Tract Aboth. Book 5 (Vols. IX and X) (also in Reconciliation)**

## **QUR'AN. ISLAM**

### **The Qu'ran<sup>4</sup>**

Hold fast, all together, to God's rope, and be not divided among yourselves. Remember with gratitude God's favor on you, for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became brethren. You were on the brink of the fiery Pit, and He saved you from it. Thus does God make His signs clear to you, that you may be guided.

Let there arise out of you one community, inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: those will be prosperous. Be not be like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputations after receiving clear signs: for them is a dreadful penalty.

#### **Qur'an 3.103-5 (also in Love and Union)**

And if two parties of the believers quarrel, make peace between them; but if one of them acts wrongfully towards the other, fight that which acts wrongfully until it returns to Allah's command; then if it returns, make peace between them with justice and act equitably; surely Allah loves those who act equitably.

#### **Qur'an 49.9 (also in Peace)**

Yet surely your Lord, with respect to those who do an evil in ignorance, then turn after that and make amends, most surely your Lord after that is Forgiving, Merciful.

#### **Qur'an 16.119**

It may be that Allah will bring about friendship between you and those whom you hold to be your enemies among them; and Allah is

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<sup>4</sup> Samir Alicehajic and M.H Shakir (translators) : *The Koran*. Available online: <http://www.yildun.com/>

Powerful; and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.  
Allah does not forbid you respecting  
those who have not made war against you on  
account of (your) religion, and have not  
driven you forth from your homes, that you  
show them kindness and deal with them justly;  
surely Allah loves the doers of justice.

**Qur'an 60.7, 60.8 (also in Love and Friendship)**

And let not those of you who possess  
grace and abundance swear against giving to  
the near of kin and the poor and those who  
have fled in Allah's way, and they should  
pardon and turn away. Do you not love that  
Allah should forgive you? And Allah is  
Forgiving, Merciful.

**Qur'an 24.22 (also in Sharing)**

And those who respond to their Lord and keep up prayer, and their rule is to  
take counsel among themselves, and who spend out of what We have given  
them.

And those who, when great wrong afflicts them, defend themselves.  
And the recompense of evil is punishment like it, but whoever forgives and  
amends, he shall have his reward from Allah; surely He does not love the  
unjust. And whoever defends himself after his being oppressed,  
these it is against whom there is no way (to blame).  
The way (to blame) is only against those who oppress men and revolt in the  
earth unjustly; these shall have a painful punishment.  
And whoever is patient and forgiving, these most surely are actions due to  
courage.  
And those who shun the great sins and  
indecencies, and whenever they are angry they forgive.

**Qur'an 42.37-43 (also in Union and Sharing)**

There is no good in most of their  
secret counsels except (in his) who enjoins  
charity or goodness or reconciliation between  
people; and whoever does this seeking Allah's

pleasure, We will give him a mighty reward.

**Qur'an 4.114 (also in Sharing)**

And not alike are the good and the evil. Repel (evil) with what is best, when he between whom and you was enmity would be as if he were a warm friend.

**Qur'an 41.34 (also in Love and Friendship)**

Hold fast, all together, to God's rope, and be not divided among yourselves. Remember with gratitude God's favor on you, for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became brethren. You were on the brink of the fiery Pit, and He saved you from it. Thus does God make His signs clear to you, that you may be guided.

Let there arise out of you one community, inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: those will be prosperous. Be not be like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputations after receiving clear signs: for them is a dreadful penalty.

**Qur'an 3.103-5 (also in Union and Peace)**

Those who spend (benevolently) in ease as well as in straitness, and those who restrain (their) anger and pardon men; and Allah loves the doers of good (to others).

**Qur'an 3.134 (also in Peace)**

## **SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB (ADI GRANTH). SIKHISM**

### **Sri Guru Granth Sahib<sup>5</sup>**

He Himself unites us in His Union; He Himself forgives us.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.245 (also in Union)**

Why do you take pride in trivial matters?

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.50**

To practice forgiveness is the true fast, good conduct and contentment.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.223**

The Treasure of mercy, compassion and forgiveness.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.283**

Without patience and forgiveness, countless hundreds of thousands have perished.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.937**

What can the poor creatures do? Granting forgiveness, He unites them with Himself.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.1060**

Kindness as their deity, and forgiveness as their chanting beads - they are the most excellent people.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.1245**

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<sup>5</sup> Sri Guru Granth Sahib in English:

<http://www.srigranth.org/servlet/gurbani.gurbani?Action=Search&Param=english>

Let forgiveness and patience be my milk-cows, and let the calf of my mind intuitively drink in this milk.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.1329**

Where there is greed, there is death. Where there is forgiveness, there is God Himself.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.1372**

Humility is the word, forgiveness is the virtue, and sweet speech is the magic mantra.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.1384**

Even the ungrateful ones are cherished by God. O Nanak, He is forever the Forgive<sup>6</sup>.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.47**

In the Society of the Saints, God, the Beloved, the Forgiver, comes to dwell within the mind.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.49 (also in Love)**

Becoming Merciful, my Lord and Master has ended my comings and goings in reincarnation.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.52 (also in Love)**

Through the Word of the Shabad, enter the Mansion of the Lord's Presence; you shall be blessed with patience, forgiveness, truth and peace.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.937**

Wind and water have patience and tolerance; the earth has compassion and forgiveness, no doubt.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.999**

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<sup>6</sup> Most of texts and fragments of the Sikh scriptures which have been selected refers to God's forgiveness. There are many others of the same kind, this is just a selection.

When the Lord Himself grants forgiveness, then peace is obtained; through the Perfect Word of the Shabad, one is united with Him.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.1047**

When the Dear Lord grants His Forgiveness, this human body finds lasting peace.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.38**

Granting forgiveness, the Perfect Guru unites us with the Creator.

**Adi Granth, Sri Rag. P.68**