

Lesson Two: What Is Forgiveness?

What Is Forgiveness?

1. Define “Forgiveness”

a. Forgiveness is:

- i. **Being separated from your sin:** Micah 7:18-19: *Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. ¹⁹He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*
- ii. **Taking away your sin:** Psalm 130:12: *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*
- iii. **Forgetting your sin:** Jeremiah 31:34: *...I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more* Isaiah 43:25: *.I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*
- iv. **Not counting (imputing) your sin against you:** Romans 4:7-8: *Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. ⁸Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*
- v. **Washing away your sin and guilt:** Hebrews 10:22: *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.* Revelation 1:5: *... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*
- vi. **Pardoning you:** Jeremiah 33:8: *And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.*

b. Forgiveness results in:

- i. **Being reconciled with God:** 2 Corinthians 5:18-19: *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*
- ii. **Being able to enter into his presence:** Hebrews 10:18-19: *Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. ¹⁹Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.*

iii. **Being perfected – being made a holy, sinless saint: Colossians 1:21-22:** *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²²In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:*

c. **Forgiveness is “all or nothing”**

i. **Scripture declares ALL your sins are removed: Colossians 2:13:** *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you **all trespasses**;*

ii. **No matter when the sin occurs, there was ever only ONE act of forgiveness! (And it occurred 2000 years ago): Hebrews 9:25-26:** *Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now **once** in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 10:12:* *But this man, after he had offered **one** sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God. Romans 5: 18-21:* *Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by **the righteousness of one** the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

iii. **You can only come into God’s presence if you are sinLESS (all your sins have been removed)!: Ephesians 5:5:** *For this ye know, that no whoremonger, **nor unclean person**, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*