

Forgiveness

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I. Introduction.

II. The basis of God's forgiveness. Jesus came to be crucified in order to bear the weight of our sins. (Isaiah 53:3-12)

III. The characteristics of God's forgiveness.

A. Cleansing. (Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9)

B. Immediate. (2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9)

C. Complete. (Psalm 103:3; Colossians 2:13; 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 55:7)

D. It is not based on what we deserve. (Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 103:3-4, 8-10)

IV. What happens to forgiven sin. They are forgotten and removed. (Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17; Jeremiah 31:34; Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19; Isaiah 44:22)

V. Prerequisites of forgiveness.

A. Confession. (1 John 1:9)

B. Repentance.

1. As long as you are not in a right forgiving relationship, you are bound.

2. Admit that your attitude has been wrong, and ask if the wronged party if he or she will forgive you.

3. Do not go beyond the circle of the offense.

C. Forgiving others. There is power in a forgiving spirit. (Mark 11:25)

VI. Principles for forgiving others.

VII. Lingered questions.

VIII. Key Scriptures: Jeremiah 32:27; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 12:1-3; 10:18; Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 106:4; Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:16; Psalm 32:1, 4-7; Isaiah 1:18-19; Acts 13:39; Romans 4:8; Colossians 1:23.

Application questions:

1. What does it require to be forgiven by God?

2. How can we overcome our struggles with forgiving people?

3. How would you characterize God's forgiveness to someone who has never experienced it?
