



Repentance & Forgiveness



Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

2 Timothy 3:16

- **Prophetic** 2 Samuel 12 – Nathan, David and Bathsheba
John 4 - Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well
- **Others** Peter & Paul (see Galatians 2:11ff and Acts 11)

Later, when Peter came to Antioch, I had a face-to-face confrontation with him because he was clearly out of line.

Galatians 2:11

Brothers if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently

Galatians 6:1

- If someone speaks to you of your sin, how do you tend to react?
- Who has permission to tell you anything?
- How do you feel about a less mature Christian correcting you?
- What if the person does it clumsily or judgementally?
- Do you have a “show me whatever I need to see” attitude?
- **Conscience** - personal sensitivity to sin

When he comes, he'll expose the error of the godless world's view of sin, righteousness, and judgment

John 16:8

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water

Hebrews 10:22

D Sin Reaction – just as bad!!!

- Self Justification When someone sins against us, our temptation is to react sinfully and then to justify ourselves (e.g. “I felt so rejected, I couldn’t pray...”)
- Example of Peter & Jesus in Gethsemane; Jesus stays walking in grace and peace while Peter picks up the sword to fight.
- Coffee Cup & Octopus Ink

but...

E Responsibility for sin reject the litigious culture

- we MUST accept full responsibility for our own sin – we cannot blame our past/parents/society/the devil...

F Do not water sin down

call sin by its true name:
e.g. Anger not frustration Fear not being a little worried
Unbelief not being a little unsure

G Resisting revelation of sin

- why do we resist?

- Pride self-righteousness – we like to believe we’re better than we actually are
- Fear of exposure, rejection and punishment (from God and man)
- Unbelief do not trust God to forgive and bring freedom
- Control we want to handle it ourselves (rebellion)

H Mechanical / False Repentance all about the heart not the outward form

True Repentance	Luke 7 – the prostitute	Luke 15 – the Prodigal Son
	Luke 18 – the Tax Collector	Luke 19 – Zacchaeus
False Repentance	1 Samuel 15:24-31 – Saul	Exodus 12 – Pharaoh
	Isaiah 58 – the nation	



**TRUE REPENTANCE**

- Godly Sorrow** - Matthew 5:4; 2 Cor 7:9-10
- Hatred of Sin** - Hebrews 1:9
- Spiritual Clarity** – Luke 19
- Forgiveness truly received** – Hebrews 10:22
- Joy & Gratitude** – Psalm 51; Isaiah 30:15
- Determination to change**
- Fruit of Repentance** – Mat 3:8; Acts 26:20
- Embracing Personal Responsibility**
- Openness and Transparency** – James 5:6
- Active Restitution**
- Living to God's Glory** – Phil.2:11; Psalm 23:2
- Truth centred / obedience focussed –**
John 8:32; Galatians 5:27
- Deepening Repentance, growing revelation of God's Holiness**

FALSE REPENTANCE

- Indifference to sin**
- Hatred of the problem not the sin**
- Vagueness in sin awareness**
- weak sense of forgiveness & cleansing**
- self-pity & grumbling**
- wanting to feel better as only goal**
- casual obedience – short lived transformation**
- shift responsibility to others**
- Secrecy – protection of reputation**
- Private only repentance**
- Repentance for my own benefit**
- Feeling-centred / self-focussed**
- spiritually 'stuck' / superficial & mechanical**

3. POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

But in our time something new has been added. What Moses and the prophets witnessed to all those years has happened. The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for everyone who believes in him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured.

Romans 3:21-25

- blood of Jesus = life poured out as a sacrifice for us
- Jesus lived the life we could never live and died the death we deserve
- His blood is the price paid for our freedom from bondage to sin, the world & the devil
- No'one can earn their salvation and forgiveness – it's a free gift

a. The Effect on Man

We are forgiven:

If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.

1 John 1:8-9

We are at peace with God:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ Romans 5:1

We can boldly enter his presence:

So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help. Hebrews 4:16





b. The Effect on Satan

The blood of Christ disarms (renders powerless) Satan's right to our lives:

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's Cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

Colossians 2:13-15

c. The Effect on God

God is at peace with His creation and the relationship of love is restored:

Through Him to reconcile to himself all things by making peace through His blood shed on the Cross

Colossians 1:20

Be practical:

- The foundation of our lives is that we are forgiven, accepted and secure.
- We do not become sin-focussed or legalistic.
- We allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, and deal with it quickly.
- Forgiveness is immediate and need never cause us to withdraw from God.

POWER & PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FORGIVENESS

The danger of unforgiveness

Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors

Matthew 6:12

Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my Heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

Matthew 18:32-35

1. Ask for the revelation of the Holy Spirit of anger and bitterness in your heart.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23,24

2. Embrace emotional honesty. Dare to see the anger and bitterness you would much prefer not to be there!
3. Do not presume the person you are angry with today is the real reason you are angry!
Ask the Lord "Why am I angry?"
4. Name the sin of the person done against you. Do not minimise it. Call it by the real name
(eg. betrayal, abuse, manipulation, rejection, prejudice . . .)
5. If feelings rise up: anger / rage; pain / hurt, it is good and proper to express them

BUT:

- Don't be derailed
- Don't get stuck in them
- Don't stop the process
 - Remember: forgiveness is a transaction of the will and the mind and the emotions follow later
 - Forgiveness releases heavenly blessing:
Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
 - Forgiveness breaks the destructive soul ties / inappropriate influence and sets us free
 - Forgiveness enables deliverance and healing to take place





6. Four key attitudes that resist granting forgiveness

- Vengeance: “I want him to pay”
- Self-justification: “I will forgive when they change”, “I am entitled to be angry, don’t you know what they did . . .”
- Self-righteousness: “I am in the right; I want my justice”
- Self-pity / victim mindset: “But it’s too painful to forgive, you can’t expect me to just let it go”

All of these are expressions of pride and rebellion in our hearts and a profound lack of gratitude for our own forgiveness by God.

Forgiveness is a matter of obedience, humility and faith in our relationship with the Lord.

7. Forgiveness does not mean:

- Pretending the injustice did not happen
- Forgetting it
- Saying sorry
- Feeling love for the offender

It does mean cancelling the debt that person owes you for their cruelty . . . the debt signifies that which the person should have done or said according to God’s standard of truth and love.

We can then place the person into the Lord’s hands for Him to deal with.

We choose to treat them as if they had acted properly towards us, and we give up our right to exact justice or revenge or to get them to realise how wrong they were. (This does not mean we won’t address the problem with them, but we do so having released them in our hearts.)

Imagine living with one of our hands tied by a strong cord (the debt against us) to a big wheelbarrow full of sand (violation against us). We have to push that thing around with us everywhere we go. How easy is that? Yet this is a reasonable picture of the spiritual burden unforgiveness imposes on us. Forgiving means taking a sword (our willingness to forgive because of the love, grace, mercy and shed blood of Jesus Christ) and severing that cord, dropping the load of debt, and leaving it behind. What a relief! We entrust ourselves – and the offender/offending situation – to God, while we are cut loose – literally – from carrying a load of unforgiveness towards the debt and the debtor. We are free!

8. Make a decision to bless the person in prayer, with your will if necessary.

9. Give up the desire / right / intention to

- Seek the person’s approval (especially true regarding mothers / fathers)
- Rescue them from their own problems (the Lord will guide you how to love them).

10. Entrust yourself into God’s hands for:

- Healing
- Protection
- Blessing

Ask forgiveness for your own

- Anger
- Bitterness
- Self-justification
- Self-righteousness
- Self-protection
- Self-pity

11. Rebuke the energising work of the enemy in your heart. Remember forgiveness is a process and takes us down through layers within our hearts.





PRACTICAL EXERCISE ON FORGIVENESS

1. Ask the Lord for one significant person to forgive
2. Write out / express on paper / name what was done against you and how you feel about them
3. Dear Heavenly Father,

I acknowledge to you today the sin done against me by (name the person/ sin before the Lord)

What you did to me was wrong and it was sinful.

I choose today to cancel the debt you owe me; I release you from my judgement and place you into the Lord's hands.

I forgive you. I bless you (in your own words).

I sever the destructive soul-tie with you and I choose not to make you pay, seek your approval or rescue you from your own problems. I choose to rise up and transcend your sin and move on in my life in obedience to my Lord.

I repent of my own anger and bitterness (name any other sin reactions towards the person) and receive your forgiveness.

I rebuke the spirit of anger, bitterness, resentment . . . and I crush you under my heel and send you vile spirit to the feet of Jesus Christ.

Lord, I ask you to come and heal me, restore me and revive me, to flood my soul with your life and peace and I choose to walk into your freedom and grace for the days ahead. Amen

4. Ask the Lord for revelation from Him how to treat / handle the person in the days ahead (especially if they do not change!)

