

What is the Grace of His Forgiveness?

1. Where does it say that Jesus bore all the sins of the world?

1 John 2:2 for He Himself is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Heb. 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

1 John 4:14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

John 3:17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

2. Where does it say that unbelievers will not suffer for sins at the Great White Throne Judgment?

1 John 2:2; In Rev. 20:11-15 they are not judged for sins and not for the bad, but will be judged according to their deeds which refers to relationship with Jesus.

3. Why does God the Son forgive sins?

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God does not forgive our sins because we deserve to be forgiven.
We cannot earn forgiveness.

(1) He forgives sins for His own sake.

Isaiah 43:25 I, even I, and the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

(2) He forgives so that He will be feared by mankind, and mankind will remain holy before Him.

Psalm 130:3 If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, (or keep account of guilty deeds) O Lord who could stand?

Psalm 130:4 But there is forgiveness with You, So that You may be feared (or revered).

(3) His riches and His grace—Eph 1:7-8

Ephesians 1:7b ... according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

(4) Because of His Love

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, who pardons wrongdoing And passes over a rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

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4. Definition of forgiveness.

Does the Hebrew and or the Greek words always mean – ‘forgiveness’- or do the words actually mean something else other than ‘forgiveness’?

To define and understand forgiveness is to realize there are several other words to explain what happens at the cross work of Jesus Christ.

(1) Not everyone is forgiven at the cross.

(2) So what about those who are not forgiven at the cross? The Greek word *aphesis* is defined as those who are released or suspension of punishment, or remission of sins.

This is made clear in Matthew 26:28 speaking of Jesus Christ’s sufferings on the cross...

Matthew 26:28 for this is my blood of the covenant (reference to the spiritual death of Jesus Christ) which is poured out for many for recession (or suspension of punishment) of sins.

He took the punishment for sins so that no one else will ever suffer for sins. Every individual who first of all becomes a member of the human race is released or suspended from punishment. Why?

Because Jesus Christ receives the punishment on the cross for the sins of everyone.

Not everyone is forgiven but no one is punished for their sins, because Jesus Christ suffered for all the sins of mankind.

Is forgiveness received by everyone? No, everyone is suspended from suffering for sins, their sins were taken care of on the cross

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by Jesus Christ. To be forgiven, you must be expiated by repentance and faith.

Psalm 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You. (Not everyone calls upon the Lord.)

5. What is the issue about forgiveness with those who will be saved? This is dealt with in the 34 Things God provides to every believer at the moment of Salvation.

Namely # 5: All sins are judged by the substitutionary spiritual death of Jesus on the cross. Romans 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 2:24.

And note # 34: The believer has all sins and transgressions blotted out. Isaiah 43:25, Isaiah 44:22; Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:14; 2:13; and 3:13.

Not only the removal of sins but when one responds to God by faith in Jesus Christ the establishment of expiation sets this up for salvation.

Most people start thinking that everyone has their sins forgiven. But, this is not the Biblical case; every unbeliever's sins are remitted but not forgiven. But every believer not only has their sins remitted but also forgiven as part of their Salvation.

6. Were all sins forgiven on the cross?
- a. All sins were not forgiven at the cross.
 - b. All sins were remitted at the cross.

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c. Punishment for all sins was paid for but not forgiven, only when the person believes in Jesus Christ are his sins are forgiven.

7. So what happened on the cross in regards to forgiveness?

a. Everyone—unbelievers’ and believers’ sins were paid for.
Doctrine of Propitiation 1 John 2:1-2

b. Forgiveness takes place only when one believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, and they are Reconciled with God.

c. Unbelievers are neither forgiven nor reconciled. Reconciliation takes place by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

8. What happens to all sins of those who refuse to believe in Jesus as Savior and what happens to them?

a. Their sins are paid for by the Spiritual death of Jesus Christ. They are therefore suspended from punishment on the cross, since Jesus took their place on the cross.

b. They are not condemned because of their sins, but they go to the Great White Throne Judgment for rejection of Jesus Christ.

9. What happens at the cross to all those who do believe?

a. They are forgiven of all sins, past and future

b. God does 34 things for them!

c. Being forgiven means they are reconciled with God. Forgiven.

10. What did you do, to receive forgiveness of sins?

By faith—when you believed in Jesus Christ and you are forgiven.
But again, everyone is given remission of sins.

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11. What does it mean to ‘forgive’? The essence of forgiving is *giving*. To ‘give’ means to release from the wrong he has done to us. We give away the right to retaliate against that person. It is so important to know and understand what forgiveness means and what happens if you forgive. To forgive means to release that person what he owes me. We might say that forgiveness presents a real problem to God. We all have sins, so how can God say that He will forgive us our sins? This is where we once again understand the power of Jesus Christ by dying on the cross, paying for the sins of the world. Again, this is why we should give thanks to Jesus Christ, daily in our lives for bearing the debt we owe due to sins and He has paid the death on the cross. The debt of our sins is death, and Jesus died for us and now we have the opportunity to simply believe in Jesus Christ and gain life eternally.
12. How should the forgiveness of sins effect your life now as a Christian? Imitate God by forgiving others because of the work of Christ on the Cross. Ephesians 4:32 and 5:1
13. What about those passages that teach that if you, as a believer do not forgive others you will not be forgiven?

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:15 But if you do not forgive other people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone,

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so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you for your offenses.

Mark 11:26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your offenses.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness

- a. First these refer to believers, not to unbelievers.
- b. In the study of the passages by Jesus' declaration of forgiveness it says that those who are saved and now under the New Kingdom, do have the responsibility to forgive others. As in His teaching to Peter of forgiving 70 times 7 times.
- c. Not forgiveness by a believer, means that the believer carries in their soul with bad attitudes toward another. They harbor sins in their own souls. Therefore there are sins in their souls and they need to make recovery by faith in the Holy Spirit and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

14. If all sins are forgiven at the cross, why does it say that Jesus has the authority to forgive sins?

First, He is the one who is sent by God the Father for the payment of sins. And then, when Jesus was born of the human race He had full authority of payment of sins.

This is the clarity of:

Acts 5:31. He is the one (Jesus Christ) whom God (The Father) exalted to His right hand as a

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Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Faith in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:43 “All the prophets testify of Him, that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 13:38 Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Psalm 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all who call upon You.

15. What does it mean about the ‘forgiveness of the condition of your heart’?

Acts 8:21 You have no part or share in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Acts 8:22 Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart will be forgiven you.

First every unbeliever has a heart not right before God.

Then: everyone must repent and change their heart to be positive to Jesus Christ and saved after their heart is now right to God.

16. What does ‘baptism’ have to do with forgiveness of sins?

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- a. Water baptism by John is baptism of repentance. The word ‘baptism’ means ‘to be identified.’ John’s baptism identifies the person with repentance. Repentance means to change your thinking, so here is the repentance or changing your attitude toward Jesus.
- b. Baptism and John the Baptist. Here is the confusion with most people. He speaks of water baptism for repentance.

Mark 1:4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

John brought a baptism to reveal a difference in a Jew who believed in Jesus as their savior and Jews who refused to believe in Jesus. It was baptism of repentance that leads to forgiveness of sins.

- c. In the Church Age the Holy Spirit will be given. Acts 2:38

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This baptism had nothing to do with water baptism, and has nothing to do in the Church today.

This was the baptism of repentance that leads to forgiveness of sins. Then they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

Questions about forgiving others in your life:

1. What is the basis of your forgiving another? Ephesians 4:32 says that we forgive each other as God forgives us in Christ.

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Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also.

2. When you forgive another we are giving that person freedom from the wrong they have done. This is one of the reasons why God forgives us with one another. That we are freed from our sins. But remember, God forgives because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross and this is why we are to forgive one another.
3. The Mosaic Law and forgiveness. The Mosaic law illustrates the requirements of the character of God to living the Christian life in the Church Age. Rightness according to the Mosaic Law is “eye for eye and tooth for tooth, bruise for bruise” (Exodus 21:23-24). God’s righteousness demands righteousness –*if you sin before God, you owe God for your sin*. Now you should grasp how marvelous Jesus Christ is to us on the cross. He takes the wrong belonged to us, and He bore the judgment to Himself. So always remember that God demands payment for sins. Jesus Christ paid the penalty that we could go free!!! ***It was for freedom that Christ set us free, therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery*** (that is slavery, we owe for sins). When we sin, when we do wrong, we should suffer death, but Jesus suffered in our place on the cross. We do not need to be forgiven of our sins, because we make confession, but because Christ died for our sins. Confession in 1 John 1:8-10 centers on confession, not because we are forgiven if we confess, but that we live in the freedom we live because of what Christ did on the cross.

Be sure we understand the passage in 1 John 1:8—*if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us*. So

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be aware of the truth on the cross, from our sins,...and if we refuse to acknowledge our sins, we are in effect denying that we have forgiveness of sins, and cleansed from unrighteousness. Doing this is to make God a liar that the sins are taken care of on the cross. So confession does not make you forgiven of sins, you are already forgiven, but confession acknowledges the truth of what has already been done for us. And this is why we should have forgiveness toward one another.

4. Why should I forgive?

- (1) God and Jesus instruct us to forgive one another, therefore we are to imitate God in Forgiveness.
- (2) Not forgiving means to hold on to pain, resentment, even anger toward others, which means we are have sins in our souls.
- (3) Forgiveness sets us free to live our lives in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.
- (4) Not forgiving and holding on to sins and hurts from one another means that we keep on living in the past.

Luke 6:37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.

This refers to clearing of sins in our souls.

- (5) There are several things you should be aware of in your forgiveness to another. As example: forgiveness does not mean that you have to become friends with that person again, but you do not have a bad attitude toward one another.