

Forgiveness

How do I receive forgiveness from God?"

Answer: Acts 13:38 declares, "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."

What is forgiveness and why do I need it?

"And they will go away in to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46 NLT)

"And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience life but remains under God's angry judgement." (John 3:36 NLT)

The word "forgive" means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, to cancel a debt. When we wrong someone, we seek their forgiveness in order for the relationship to be restored. Forgiveness is not granted because a person deserves to be forgiven. No one deserves to be forgiven. Forgiveness is an act of love, mercy, and grace. Forgiveness is a decision to not hold something against another person, despite what they have done to you. The Bible tells us that we are all in need of forgiveness from God. We have all committed sin. Ecclesiastes 7:20 proclaims, "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins." 1 John 1:8 says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." All sin is ultimately an act of rebellion against God (Psalm 51:4). As a result, we desperately need God's forgiveness. If our sins are not forgiven, we will spend eternity suffering the consequences of our sins (Matthew 25:46; John 3:36).

Atonement - Procedure of reconciling sinners to God.

Forgiveness – How do I get it?

Thankfully, God is loving and merciful – eager to forgive us of our sins! 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, "...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." God desires to forgive us, so He provided for our forgiveness. The only just penalty for our sins is death. The first half of Romans 6:23 declares, "For the wages of sin is death..." Eternal death is what we have earned for our sins. God, in His perfect plan, became a human being – Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14). Jesus died on the cross, taking the penalty that we deserve – death. 2 Corinthians 5:21 teaches us, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment that we deserve! As God, Jesus' death provided forgiveness for the sins of the entire world. 1 John 2:2 proclaims, "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." Jesus rose from the dead, proclaiming His victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:1-28). Praise God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the second half of Romans 6:23 is true, "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Do you want to have your sins forgiven? Do you have a nagging feeling of guilt that you can't seem to get to go away? Forgiveness of your sins is available if you will place your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Jesus paid our debt for us, so we could be forgiven. All you have to do is ask God to forgive you through Jesus, believing that Jesus died to pay for your forgiveness – and He will forgive you! John 3:16-17 contains this wonderful message, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not

Elements involved in Atonement:
- Sin of Humanity
- Blood must be shed
- Substitutionary sacrifice is offered
- Guilt is transferred to the substitute
- Forgiveness is granted
Results of Christ's atoning blood:
- Sins forgiven
- Purified from sin
- Freed from sin
- Redeemed
- Saved
- Reconciled w/ God
- Peace w/ God
- Made Holy
- Reconciled to other Christians
- The power of the devil is destroyed

perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

Forgiveness – is it really that easy?

Yes it is that easy! You can't earn forgiveness from God. You can't pay for your forgiveness from God. You can only **receive it, by faith, through the grace and mercy of God**. **If you want to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and receive forgiveness from God, here is prayer you can pray. Saying this prayer or any other prayer will not save you. It is only trusting in Jesus Christ that can provide forgiveness of sins. This prayer is simply a way to express to God your faith in Him and thank Him for providing for your forgiveness. "God, I know that I have sinned against You and am deserving of punishment. But Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. I place my trust in You for salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness! Amen!"**

Insert whatever sins you have committed into the _____. Yes, God can and will forgive any sin. The doctrine of atonement is what explains salvation and forgiveness of sin. **God imputed Christ's righteousness to those who humbly ask for forgiveness of sin (Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)**. He paid the full price for our sin, and believers are forgiven fully for every sin they commit—past, present, and future. There is also **daily forgiveness as we confess our sins and forsake them for our sanctification**. If you compare any sin to the murder of Jesus, it pales in comparison, yet Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34)**.

The concepts of **salvation and forgiveness are inextricably linked**. Fortunately, God's grace is sufficient for any and all sin, whatever sin you put in the blank. **Receiving forgiveness is up to the individual**. That is the **first issue; will you receive the salvation (forgiveness of sin) that Christ is offering?** If the answer is "yes," then you are fully forgiven of all debt of sin (Acts 13:38-39). This **forgiveness comes by faith in Jesus and God's grace alone, not by works or good deeds** (Romans 3:20, 22). **Salvation begins by humbly acknowledging that we will never be good enough to get into heaven on our own merit and that we need forgiveness. Accepting Jesus Christ means believing that His death and resurrection paid the penalty for all sin ever committed and that it is sufficient to cover all sin (2 Corinthians 12:9)**. So, if you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, God has already forgiven all your sins. If you have not, **confess your sins to God, and He will cleanse you and restore you to fellowship with Him (1 John 1:8-9)**. Even with forgiveness, you may still experience feelings of guilt. **Feeling guilty over sin is actually a natural response of our conscience, and it is there to remind us not to repeat sinful patterns**. Understanding that Jesus is fully capable of forgiving any measure of sin is the hope of our salvation. Understanding forgiveness is the cure for guilty feelings. Knowing that forgiveness is really a beautiful, graceful gift from a God who loves us allows us to see how truly wonderful He is. When we contemplate our own sin and how wretched and unworthy of forgiveness we are, it becomes clear that **God is loving, compassionate, and worthy of our worship**. **Our sinful pride about needing forgiveness is what stands between us and a relationship with a caring Savior**. But for those who ask for forgiveness, they can believe that Jesus is sufficient and eager to forgive and save them from their sin, and they will ultimately enter into His courts with praise (Psalm 100:4).

Inextricable -
from which one
cannot extricate
oneself

Extricate -
to free or release
from entanglement.

Salvation and
forgiveness go hand
in hand we can't have
one without the other
but we have to have
the faith to believe
that.

"If we claim we have
no sin, we are only
fooling ourselves and
not living in the truth.
9- But if we confess
our sins to him, he is
faithful and just to
forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us
from all wickedness."
(1 John 1:8-9)

"But he was pierced
for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so
we could be whole.
He was whipped so
we could be healed.
6- All of us, like
sheep, have strayed
away. We left God's
path to follow our
own. Yet the Lord
laid on him the sins
of us all." (Isaiah
53:5-6 NLT)

"For God made
Christ, who never
sinned, to be the
offering for our sin,
so that we could be
made right with God
through Christ." (2
Corinthians 5:21
NLT)

"Brothers, listen! We
are here to proclaim
that through this man
Jesus there is
forgiveness for your
sins. 39- Everyone
who believes in him
is declared right with
God---something the
law of Moses could
never do." (Acts
13:38-39)