

Lesson Three: How Are We Forgiven?

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1. Forgiveness does not depend on you

a. By definition --- Forgiveness cannot be earned

i. **A debt that is paid cannot be 'forgiven':** American Heritage Dictionary - **Forgive:** *to excuse for an offense; pardon; absolve from payment of a debt; to refrain from imposing punishment on an offender or demanding satisfaction for an offense.*

ii. **Don't confuse forgiveness with 'restitution':** American Heritage Dictionary - **Restitution:** *the act of making good or compensating for loss, damage, or injury; indemnification.*

b. By our works --- Forgiveness cannot be earned

iii. **No one is worthy of forgiveness:** Romans 3:23: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*

iv. **Keeping God's commands is only doing what is expected. It can't make restitution for breaking His commands. It can't make you worthy to be forgiven:** Luke 17:7-10: *But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

c. Discuss the questions "What can you do to ...

i. **Make restitution to God for your sins?**

ii. **Repair the real damage caused by your sin? (i.e. Reconcile your relationship with God)**

iii. **Remove the guilt of your sin?**

iv. **Pay the penalty / serve the sentence / "do the time" you have earned for each one of your sins?**

d. Old Testament Temple ordinances

i. The life blood of a sacrificed perfect substitute washes sin away: **Leviticus 4:3:** *If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering.*
Leviticus 16:3, 11: *Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering ... And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself ...*

ii. A perfect substitute takes away sin (separates you from your sin forever):

Leviticus 16:21-22: *And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: ²²And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness*

e. King David (2 Samuel 12 & 13 - Psalm 32 & 51)

i. Was King David forgiven?: **2 Samuel 12:13:** *And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.* **Psalm 32:5:** *I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah*

ii. What sins was David forgiven of?: **2 Samuel 12:4, 15:** *And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. - - - And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.*

iii. Did David do anything to be worthy of being forgiven?

iv. Why was David forgiven?: **1 John 1:9:** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*