

## BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

### *The Grace of God: Forgiveness*

November 21, 2024

#### Preliminary

Colossians 3:12-13 = *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Note: Forgiveness is one of the hardest commands for people to follow.

- The forgiveness of sins is a central theme in the Bible:  
Luke 5:32 = *I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.*  
Ephesians 1:7 = *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace*
- Forgiveness is a grace from God for those who are called to repent, and all who have received it should testify by forgiving others as well... Eph 4:32

Point: Without repentance for sin, there is no forgiveness.

Acts 3:19 = *Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out*

#### 1. The Cause and Effect of Sin

Cause: Disobedience to God's Law led humanity into sin... Gen 2:16-17; 3:6, 15-19

Effect: The sin of Adam is imputed to all of humanity...

Texts: Rom 5:12; 3:23; 6:23; 1 Cor 15:22

- Humanity lost their ability to reconcile with God... Eph 2:1
- All have turned away from God... Acts 3:19; Zech 1:3

Grace: God declared His grace and mercy, calling humanity to repentance and offering forgiveness... Joel 2:12-15

#### 2. The Basis of Forgiveness

Note: God forgave all the sins of those who repented and believed in Christ through His sacrifice and death on the Cross... Jn 1:29; 1 Jn 4:10; Heb 9:22

Point: To forgive is a command for all people, especially those who have experienced it from God... Col 3:13

Matthew 6:12, 14-15 = *and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors... For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Matthew 5:23-24 = *So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

Warning: Refusing to forgive is clearly disobedience to God's command.

- Showing outward goodness in the church but not forgiving is hypocrisy... Mt 18:23-35 = ... *You wicked servant!*

#### 3. Complete Forgiveness

Note: Forgiveness is the removal or forgetting of sin – declaration of being justified (a judicial term)... Rom 3:24-26

Galatians 2:16 = *yet we know that a person is **not** justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

Point: Sinners are not forgiven because of the works of the law but because of the righteousness of Christ.

- The forgiveness we have in Christ means we are freed from the penalty/judgment we should have paid... Col 1:14

Biblical Presentation:

Jeremiah 31:34 = *For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more... cf. Isa 43:25*

Romans 8:1 = *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*

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

- No one is deserving of God's forgiveness, but because of His love, mercy, and grace, we have obtained full and complete forgiveness through what the Son has done... Jn 3:16

#### 4. Implications

Note: There is no forgiveness without accepting that one is a sinner... 1 Jn 1:8-10

Question: How do we forgive those who sin against us or our enemies?

Answer: By following Christ's example of forgiveness... Lk 23:34

Luke 6:37-38 = *Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*

Context: This is teaching on Biblical forgiveness, not a promise of material blessings.

Challenge: Forgiveness is accompanied by good works toward the forgiven.

Texts: Acts 14:17; Mt 5:44-48; 1 Cor 13:4-7

Question: Have you repented of your sins and experienced forgiveness from God? Have you forgiven others?

***As long as the experience of God's forgiveness has not been made felt, true forgiveness will not yet be witnessed***