

Lesson 16: Forgiveness

Introduction

We Christians realize that the most important parts of our lives are those that make an impact for eternity. The study of God and his relations to, purposes for, and work within the created universe- Matters! Welcome to our Link Group where we focus on biblical small groups grounded in the teachings of the bible. Our goal is to ground biblical believers and to develop disciples that make disciplines!

By virtue of the fall of man all men have become sinners. Sin keeps men out of heaven. Forgiveness is the keynote to entering heaven.

In the Old Testament there are three words for forgiveness: to cover, to lift away, and to send away.

"In the New Testament forgiveness is the separation of the sinner from his sins through the sacrifice of Christ and upon the ground of pure grace" – R. Lee I.

Main Content

THE AUTHOR OF FORGIVENESS

God alone can forgive sin because the sinner has broken God's law.

Lk. 7:49; Mk. 2:7 – Only God can forgive sins.

Never go to a human mediator. Go directly to God. 1 John 1:9.

Acts 5:31 – Jesus is appointed to forgive sins.

THE CHANNEL OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness comes through Jesus Christ. Acts 13:38.

Luke 7:48; Mark 2:9 – Jesus personally forgave sinners.

Forgiveness is found in Christ alone, not in rituals or institutions.

THE FOUNDATION OF FORGIVENESS

1. Compassion – Psalm 78:38.
2. Divine Justice – 1 John 1:9; Romans 3:25-26.
3. Blood of Christ – Ephesians 1:7.

God requires blood as payment for sin. Ezekiel 18:4; Genesis 2:17; 3:21; Leviticus 17:11.

Abel's offering was accepted because of blood. Genesis 4:3-5.

THE COMPLETENESS OF FORGIVENESS

When Jesus forgives, He forgives ALL sin. Luke 7:47; Psalm 103:3.

Psalm 32:1-2; Colossians 2:13; Matthew 12:31.

One unforgiven sin would bar entrance to heaven. Revelation 21:27.

THE POSSESSION OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is a present possession. Ephesians 1:7.

Luke 7:36-50; 1 John 2:12.

Believers can know now that they are forgiven.

THE CONDITIONS OF FORGIVENESS

1. Repentance – Acts 5:31; Acts 2:38.

2. Faith – Luke 7:50.

3. Confession – 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5.

4. Forgiving others – Matthew 6:15; Luke 6:37; Ephesians 4:32.

THE FREQUENCY OF FORGIVENESS

We should confess as often as we sin. Romans 6:1-2.

We must forgive others continually. Matthew 18:21-35.

Conclusion

Forgiveness is the cornerstone of salvation. Through Christ, God offers complete forgiveness to all who repent, believe, and confess.

Forgiveness is a present possession, not something to be earned.

Link Questions

1. Why is it hard to forgive?

2. When is the last time you forgave someone who offended you?