

Doctrine of Forgiveness

1. Unless God forgives sins there is no basis for a spiritual relationship with Him. That God does forgive sin is the hope of the heart and the revelation of the Holy One.
 - *Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him [Moses], and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.*

2. A divine motive for extending forgiveness is that men might learn to fear God.
 - *Psalms 130:4 But [literally, "For"] there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.*

3. Christians should intercede on behalf of others for forgiveness not only with God but also with those who have been hurt.
 - *Genesis 50:17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.*
 - *Exodus 10:17 Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only.*

4. Extreme acts of intercession pleading for forgiveness involves the soul's distress.
 - *Exodus 32:32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

5. God will forgive a vow made under certain conditions.
 - *Numbers 30:3 If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth; 4 And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. 5 But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.*

6. There is a point where sin saturates the soul and divine forgiveness is no longer extended.
 - *Joshua 24:19 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.*

7. Appearing before David, Abigail pleaded that the foolish actions of her husband might be forgiven.

- *1 Samuel 25:28 I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days.*
8. One of the sweetest prayers is found by Solomon when he pleads with God to listen to the confession of His people, “*and when thou hearest, forgive.*”
- *1 Kings 8:30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.*
9. One of the great promises in the Bible is that God will forgive those who truly humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways.
- *2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
10. In the midst of pain and suffering David asked for God’s forgiveness.
- *Psalms 25:18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.*
11. God is more ready to forgive than the soul is to sin.
- *Psalms 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*
12. The prophet Jeremiah asked that God not forgive the sins of the enemies of Israel but deal with them in justice.
- *Jeremiah 18:23 Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger.*
13. The day will come when God will restore universal righteousness to earth.
- *Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*
14. The warnings of divine judgment are designed to lead the heart to repent.
- *Jeremiah 36:3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.*

15. Daniel argued strong arguments why God should forgive Israel reminding the Lord that “*thy city and thy people are called by thy name.*”

- *Daniel 9:19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.*

16. Jesus taught that divine forgiveness is to be asked for.

- *Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

17. A person who does not extend forgiveness to others will not know the Father’s forgiveness.

- *Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*
- *Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

18. The miracles Jesus performed testified to His power to forgive sins.

- *Matthew 9:6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

19. Reflecting the mercy and grace of God there is to be no end to the number of times a Christian extends forgiveness to someone else.

- *Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?*
- *Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.*

20. The divinity of Christ is established by His ability to forgive sins.

- *Mark 2:7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?*

21. A spirit that is non-judgmental is a heart that will know much of God’s forgiveness.

- *Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:*

22. In the hour of His death Jesus prayed the Father would forgive those who crucified Him.

- *Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

22. The church should forgive those who have been caught in great sin but have confessed it and turned from the evil that has been done.

- *2 Corinthians 2:7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.*

23. God will be faithful to forgive confessed sins.

- *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.*