

# Forgiving As God Forgives

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# Fundamental FACTS About Forgiveness

- All have sinned
  - **Romans 3:23**, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”
- The price for sin is high
  - **Romans 6:23**, “For the wages of sin is death”
- All need a savior
  - **Matthew 1:21**, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”



# God's Forgiveness is Perfect

## ■ Blots out sin

- **Acts 3:19**, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out”

SIN

## ■ Cleanses from all 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”

SIN

## ■ Sins remembered no more

- **Hebrews 8:12**, “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more”

SIN

# Criteria Forgiveness...

## ■ For the Alien Sinner

- **John 8:24**, “if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
- **Luke 13:3**, “except ye repent, ye shall...perish”
- **Matthew 10:32-33**, “whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”
- **Acts 2:38**, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,



# Criteria For Forgiveness...



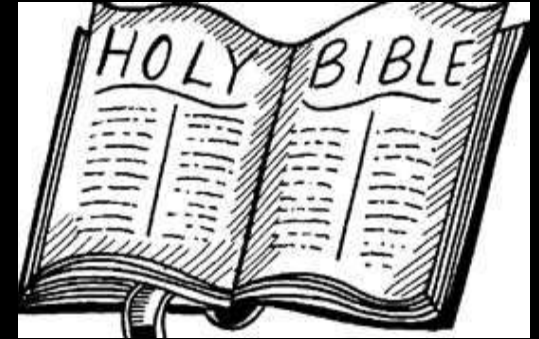
## ■ For the Erring Child of God

- **John 9:31a**, “God heareth not sinners...”
- **Proverbs 15:29**, “The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayers of the righteous.”
- **Isaiah 59:1-2**, “the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated you from your God...”
- **Acts 8:22-23**, “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee...thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in the bond of iniquity.*”

# Criteria for Forgiveness...continued

## ■ Love & Obedience to God

- **John 14:15**, “If you love me keep my commandments.”



## ■ Forgiving others

- **Mark 11:25**, “...when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive your trespasses.”

- **Mark 11:26**, “...if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.”



# Jesus Gave The Greatest Example

- **Commanded to follow in His footsteps**
  - **1 Peter 2:21**, “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps...”
- **His Ultimate Act of Forgiveness**
  - **Luke 23:33-34**, “...when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, ...said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do .”



**We are...**

***“to let go”, “to give up”, “to remit”,  
“to keep no longer”, “to release”***

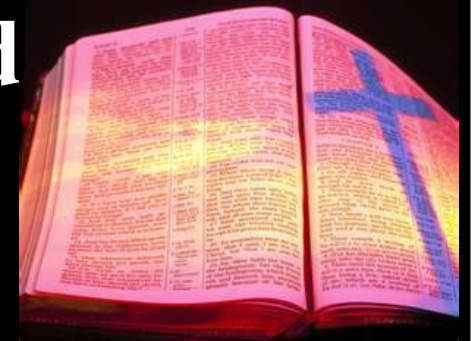
# Challenges of Forgiveness

## ■ Practicing The Goodness of God

■ **Ephesians 5:1**, “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children...”

■ **Ephesians 4:32**, “...be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

■ **Romans 12:19-21**, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves...for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”



# Challenges of Forgiveness

## ■ Practicing the Goodness of God

- **Luke 6:27-31**, But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”



# Challenges of Forgiveness

## ■ Practicing the Goodness of God

■ **Colossians 3:12-13**, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye.*”

■ **Romans 13:9-10**, “love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”



# Conclusion of The Matter

## ■ Basic Facts About Forgiveness

- All have sinned, All have sinned, All need a Savior

## ■ God's Forgiveness is Perfect

- Blots out, Cleanses, Remembers sin no more

## ■ Criteria For Forgiveness

### ■ The Alien Sinner

- Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptized, Faithful

### ■ The Erring Child of God

- Repent & Pray for Forgiveness



# Conclusion of The Matter, cont.

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## ■ Additional Criteria for Forgiveness...

- Forgiving, a condition for forgiveness

- Forgiving as Jesus Forgave

- Practicing the Goodness of God

- Forgiving one another

- Leaving vengeance to God

- Blessing & doing good for those who despise us

- Feeding, loving & praying for our enemies

- Continued Love & Obedience to God

- **Revelation 2:10**, “faithful unto death”

