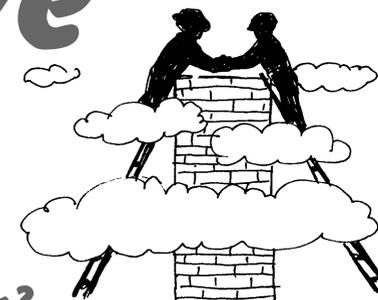


# I Forgive You



## ● What does 'forgive' mean?

Forgiveness is needed when one person has wronged another and the relationship between the two has been damaged. In order that forgiveness may operate, there must be love and a desire for reconciliation on both sides. Forgiveness and apology go hand in hand.

*The person who has done wrong*

*The person who has been wronged*

"I love you. I apologise. I repent. I admit that I have done wrong and am sorry I have hurt you. I wish to put things right."

"I love you. I forgive you. I accept your apology. I wish to forget the wrongs and cast away the hurts that you have caused."

*I repent* → *Reconciliation* ← *I forgive*

*Repenting* means apologising and being determined not to do the same thing again. Often in human situations, both parties need to forgive and repent because there is wrong on both sides.

## ● God wants to forgive us

\* Psalm 103: v 8-14

Does God treat us as we deserve? \_\_\_\_\_

How great is the love of God towards those who fear him?

How far does he remove our transgressions (sins) from us?

Review your life and consider if there are people whom you find it hard to forgive, whom you resent, or who have wronged you ... they could be:

- parents ● children ● relatives ● husband ● wife
- ex-boyfriend ● ex-girlfriend ● previous spouse
- employer or employee ● landlord or tenant ● schoolteachers ● doctors
- those who have abused you ● friends who have let you down
- people who have influenced your life in a harmful way

**Think!**

**Action!**

**Now** - Pray for these people and begin to love them knowing that God loves them and cares for them. Extend your forgiveness to them — if you find this difficult, ask God to help you and melt your hard heart. Your forgiveness needs to be like your Father's ...

*Forgiven! Forgotten! Gone!*

\* Luke Ch 23: v 34

Look at the example of Jesus. What were they doing to him when he prayed for their forgiveness?

\* Matthew Ch 18: v 21-22

What did Jesus mean by 77 times? How often should we forgive? \_\_\_\_\_

## ● A parable about forgiveness

Jesus told parables (stories) to illustrate his teaching. Reading this parable, you can consider what the characters (King, servants) and debts represent. You cannot always draw teaching from the fine details of parables — look for the main point being made.



\* Matthew Ch 18: v 23-35

What does the large debt represent? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the small debt represent? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we show our gratitude for God's forgiveness?

• **Fear the Lord?**

This does not mean that we should be afraid or scared of God. It does mean that we should respect him, honour him and be reverent to him; he is the holy, awesome creator of the whole universe and will be our judge.

**ISAIAH**

**\* Isaiah Ch 43: v 25**

What does God do with our transgressions (sins) when he forgives us?

\_\_\_\_\_

Does God remember our sins? \_\_\_\_\_

When God forgives us, he forgets our sins and does not hold them against us in the future. They are

***Forgiven! Forgotten! Gone!***

**\* Isaiah Ch 53: v 5-7**

This prophecy about Jesus was written by the prophet Isaiah about 700 years before Jesus lived!

What did God do so that we can be forgiven?

\_\_\_\_\_

Because God is holy and just, he cannot merely 'let us off' when he forgives our sins. Jesus died on the cross in our place to take the punishment for our sins.

● **Receiving God's forgiveness**

**\* 1 John Ch 1: v 9**

(This is not John's gospel, but a letter written by John — you will find it near the end of the Bible.)

What must we do to receive God's forgiveness?

\_\_\_\_\_

What else will God do for us?

\_\_\_\_\_

● **What if I sin again after God has forgiven me?**

Very simply, you need to confess and repent again — but repentance does mean turning away from sin and having the desire and determination to overcome it by the power of God in you!

**Salvation**  
 As well as forgiving our past sins, God offers power to overcome sins day by day. When we become Christians, we are saved. Being saved is called salvation.

- ***We have been saved from the penalty of sin***  
 Our sins have been forgiven and we need no longer fear the judgment of God.
- ***We are being saved from the power of sin***  
 God gives us strength to live wholesome lives.
- ***We will be saved from the presence of sin***  
 We have the promise of eternal life — there will be no sin when we are with God for ever after this life.

● **As we forgive those who sin against us**

Unforgiveness and bitterness are the source of many of our problems. They produce arguments, hate, violence, wars, disintegration of family life, political unrest and breakdown in communication. Sometimes our resentments appear to be justified because we have been badly wronged, or we find it impossible to understand the other person's attitude. Jesus taught a new way of approaching these situations — *we are to treat people as God treats us.*

**\* Luke Ch 6: v 27-36**

What should we do for our enemies?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 27)                      • \_\_\_\_\_ (v 27)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 28)                      • \_\_\_\_\_ (v 28)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 29)                      • \_\_\_\_\_ (v 30)

What is our reward? \_\_\_\_\_ (v 35)

In what ways should we be like our Father?

\_\_\_\_\_ (v 35-36)