

GRACE

MORE THAN WE DESERVE. GREATER THAN WE IMAGINE

Part 3: Total Forgiveness

INTRODUCTION

Fear of punishment can be damaging to our emotional and spiritual well being, but our greatest danger probably comes from guilt. Guilt can be constructive, one of the tools God uses to help us see our need for forgiveness and acknowledge our sin. But after we have seen it and have received His forgiveness by faith, the guilt is gone forever. We never need to struggle with its venomous effect again. Some Christians, however, worry of losing their salvation and ask questions like: “What happens if I sin, and then I die before I have an opportunity to confess that sin to God?” or “What happens if I commit a sin, but then forget about it and never remember to confess it to God?” The good news of God’s grace is this: At the cross, through Christ’s sacrifice, God has forgiven all your sins (past, present and future.) Therefore, you shouldn’t fear losing my salvation when you commit a sin even when you haven’t confessed it to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the best material gift you have ever received? Who gave it to you and why?
2. Have you ever decided to forgive someone even before they asked it? Share your story.
3. If you can choose to forgive someone before they asked, how much more God can do that and more? People think God cannot forgive us unless we’re genuinely sorry and beg him for forgiveness. But Jesus did it all the time. Take turn to read the following stories:
 - a. Woman caught in adultery (John 8:11)
 - b. Paralyzed man (Luke 5:20)
 - c. Thief at the cross , and even everyone who put him on that cross (Luke 23:43).
 - d. Who has the right to forgive? Is it the offender or the offended? How does this relate to God’s ability to forgive us?
4. If a person commits suicide will he/she go to heaven?
5. Read the following verses: John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Do these verses change your answer above?
6. Do you think knowing all your sins have been forgiven make you a better or worse Christian?

MOVING FORWARD

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. 1Peter 3:18 (NLT)

CHANGING YOUR MIND

You were dead because of your sins... Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. Colossians 2:13 (NLT)