



Week 6: A deeper thought about forgiveness
Sunday, October 2nd, 2022

† Okay... but what does that mean?
Colossians 1:13-14

† So, what does it mean that, In Christ, we are forgiven?

† A step deeper: just what do we mean by SIN?

- Missing the mark

Problem: our concept of sin may grow from being willfully disobedient to human failure in general.

- Moral imperfection
Colossians 3:5-8

Problem: Sin isn't just choosing to do things that are morally negative, it is failure to obey God's commands that are morally positive.

- Lack of faith
Romans 14:23

† The essence of original sin
Genesis 3:1-7

† **Reality!** *To live in faith, trust, and dependence upon God- with Christ as our source of life in our mind, will, and emotions- will be to live, increasingly, in a natural obedience to the nature and character of God.*

† **A working definition of sin:** the condition of valuing my own wisdom and authority above God's presence, nature, and authority (*self-centeredness, 'the flesh'*) – which leads me to violate God's LOVE for myself and others. (*Be it for fear, anger, pride, jealousy, prejudice, self-protection, self-gratification, ignorance, etc.*)

Bottom line: *I sin when I violate God's love for His creation.*

† Our great need of Forgiveness!

† A thought about judgment
2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10-12

† The miracle of redemption
Romans 3:21-24, John 8:10-11

† Our hope for tomorrow is our reality today

† Remember

Questions for reflection and discussion

- What are some common things we say as Christians about which we should ask “*Just what do we mean by that?*”
- If a friend told a friend about your faith in Christ, and they asked “*Why do I need to be forgiven? Why is it so important that Jesus ‘died for my sins?’*” What would you say?
- Why is a good understanding of sin crucial to a deeper understanding of forgiveness?
- How is sin about more than ‘morally negative thoughts and actions?’
- Read Romans 14:23. How is lack of faith a sin? What are specific examples in life? Are there things that might be sin for someone and not for you? Vice versa? How could this principle be distorted?
- Read Genesis 3:1-7. In your words, what is the essence of original sin portrayed here? Pastor Ethan said “*At its core, sin isn’t about ‘what/who is right’, but ‘who is God?’*” Do you agree? Why is this distinction important?
- Discuss Pastor Ethan’s ‘working definition of sin’. Do you agree? How does seeing sin as a ‘violation of God’s Love’ shed new light on what sin is? Does this change the way you think about sin? Can you give a practical example?
- How does this concept of sin expand our understanding of forgiveness? Why is the concept of redemption so important to understanding forgiveness?
- How is God’s gift of redemption and forgiveness powerful in our lives today?

Next week: Guest Pastor Gregg Meserole

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