

# The Importance of Forgiveness

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. (*Ecclesiastes 7:20*)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (*Romans 3:23*)

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (*Jeremiah 31:34*)

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. (*Isaiah 43:25*)

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. (*Proverbs 28:13*)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (*James 5:16*)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*1 John 1:9*)

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (*Psalms 51:2-4*)

[God] does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. (*Psalms 103:10-13*)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (*1 John 2:1*)

For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (*Matthew 26:28*)

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (*Acts 10:43*)

And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. (*Luke 12:10*)

Thus says the Lord of hosts, render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another. (*Zechariah 7:9*)

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. (*Luke 6:37*)

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (*Mark 11:25*)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (*Ephesians 4:32*)

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (*Colossians 3:13*)

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart. (*Matthew 18:23-35*)

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (*Matthew 6:14-15*)

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. (*Romans 12:17*)

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. (*Proverbs 25:21*)

To the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." (*Romans 12:20*)

Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him. (*Luke 17:3-4*)

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. (*Matthew 18:15-17*)

Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (*Luke 5:27:32*)

At dawn [Jesus] appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (*John 8:2-11*)

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified [Jesus] there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (*Luke 23:33-34a*)