

When Forgiveness Isn't Enough

Adapted by Paul R. Blake from a lesson developed by Coral Blake

I. FORGIVENESS IS ENOUGH

- A. We often find ourselves as children cowering feeling guilt, needing to reach a level of spiritual maturity that allows us to know forgiveness
 - 1. Need reassuring feedback to believe and feel it - Matt. 9:2, 6
 - 2. Must be acquired by faith by knowing God's will and believing His promises - Rom. 4:4-8
 - 3. God will not give us this faith directly or apart from our will and action
- B. Even people who are good in our estimation do not merit forgiveness; no one does. We need to understand and believe in grace, make it personal, own it
 - 1. It will never be earned, but is given freely when we do all we can to follow God's will.
 - 2. We need to know in our hearts that God loves each of us so much that He sent His Son to die, even knowing ahead of time the sins we would commit, and knowing that most would reject His grace
 - a. 1John 4:9-10
 - 3. We need to come by faith to accept God's forgiveness just as we want others to accept it by faith; wholeheartedly and completely.
 - 4. Some had so many promises broken by others that they find it hard to trust God's promises.
 - 5. We need to believe God when He says He forgets our sins.
 - a. Heb. 8:12; Isa. 43:25
 - 6. We need to realize that God does not want us to live in fear, but wants us to have a confident mind free of debilitating fear
 - a. 2Tim. 1:7; Rom. 8:15
 - 7. We need to share our journey with others to encourage them; so that we all understand we are not alone in our sins
 - a. We all sin; therefore, we are not uniquely sinful.
- C. God's completely altruistic love desires:
 - 1. The wellbeing of the one loved - Rom. 5:8-11, 8:32
 - 2. That the one loved grow up to love - 1John 3:16, 4:7, 17
- D. God is the source of love; there was no one before Him to teach Him to love.
 - 1. You cannot truly love another until you have experienced love.
 - 2. The fact that God is allowing you this time while He loves you unconditionally is evidence that He believes you have this capacity; He believes in you and your capacity for health and goodness.
 - 3. Therefore, He must see something in you to love; you must come to trust what God sees and loves in you.

II. SO WHY ISN'T FORGIVENESS ENOUGH FOR SOME?

- A. Perhaps we are looking for a level of:
 - 1. Happiness that is unrealistic in this world damaged by sin
 - 2. Security and peace not promised in this life

3. Freedom from an imprisoning emotional health cycle of self-deprecating thoughts
 4. In all likelihood, what we need is stronger faith in and a determined embrace of the blessing of grace - Rom. 5:20-21
- B. Often forgiven people don't feel forgiven, or soon fall back into feelings of guilt and uncleanness
1. Men who teach us that we are unworthy misguidedly present only partial truth
 2. It is true that we cannot earn salvation by our own good works or personal goodness; we do not deserve forgiveness and grace
 3. It is also and irrevocably true that because God loves us, He imputes worthiness to us through His Son.
 4. If God loves us enough to bestow grace and worth on us, who are we to call ourselves unclean and unworthy
 5. Acts 10:9-16; Rom. 4:20-25
- C. We are permitted to wonder at this; we can praise God for it; we can express surprise over how foreign it seems to our reasoning and experience
1. But to grasp, for whatever reason, on our own vision of our personal evil and unworthiness to the point that forgiveness isn't enough for us, implies terrible things about God
 - a. He doesn't have enough power to cleanse you from your sins
 - b. He lied about removing your sins
 - c. He was mistaken about you; you are the one exception among all people everywhere that confounds and confuses the Almighty
- D. God wants to forgive you of everything from your outside all the way to the core of your being
1. God has the means and power to do so - Heb. 7:25; Psalm 103:12
 2. When He forgives you, he imputes the condition of cleanliness and worthiness to you by means of how much He loves you
- E. It is another of the great paradoxes of truth that we must accept these facts:
1. That we must accept by faith that in spite of our own unworthiness, God can make us worthy
 2. That God's grace is more than enough to overcome our sin

Grace Greater than Our Sin

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
 Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
 Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
 There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
 Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
 Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
 Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.
What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,
Brighter than snow you may be today.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Conclusion: Eph. 3:14-21