

New City Catechism

As group:

Ask Question 25

Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Answer Question 25

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Discuss

1. How does the assurance that all our sins are fully forgiven through Christ motivate us to pursue holiness, rather than live however we please?
2. How might someone misunderstand/misappropriate this truth and wrongly use it as an excuse to take sin lightly?

Main Point

Faithful Christian living means embracing the reality that, like Jesus and his disciples, we will face rejection and hardship as we proclaim the gospel. This rejection is not a sign of failure but a reflection of the human heart's natural resistance to God. In the face of this, we are called to live in humble dependence on God, trusting in his provision and continuing to share the good news with boldness and perseverance.

Read Mark 6:1-13

- 1) Why were the people of Nazareth so offended by Jesus, despite recognising his wisdom and power? What does this reveal about the natural human heart toward God?
- 2) On Sunday, Daniel discussed how even Jesus faced rejection, despite his perfect ministry. How should this shape our expectations and attitudes when we face rejection in gospel ministry?
 - a) How do we guard against weariness or cynicism as we share our faith?

- 3) How does recognising that the human heart is naturally inclined to reject God help us remain patient and prayerful in our evangelism? How does knowing God is sovereign over rejection and acceptance free you from the burden of trying to control people's responses to the gospel?
- 4) What does it look like in practical terms for Christians today to live in radical dependence on God rather than worldly security?
 - a) What would it look like in your life to cultivate a heart that is increasingly dependent on God, rather than on wealth, comfort, or status?
- 5) The Gospel of Mark emphasises that God uses weak, broken vessels (as epitomised in the conduct of the disciples). How does this encourage or challenge you as you think about your own role in gospel work?
- 6) Are there ways you are tempted to soften or avoid the message of repentance because of fear of rejection? How so? What does this reveal about your heart?
- 7) How does knowing that rejection is part of faithful gospel ministry free you from measuring success by people's responses?
- 8) Reflecting on the sermon, how can we pray for you? Do you need to grow in boldness, faithfulness, and/or trust as you seek to share Jesus with others?

- 1) In the Ancient Near East, rising above your station was seen as a flaw, not an admirable traits. The people of Nazareth couldn't accept that someone so familiar and ordinary (the carpenter's son) could be God's chosen one. This exposes the pride, prejudice, and unbelief in the human heart. We naturally reject the idea that God works through weakness, humility, and ordinary means. It shows that our hearts are not neutral; by nature, we resist God and his ways unless he changes us.
- 2) If even Jesus — with perfect words, perfect compassion, and perfect miracles — was rejected, then rejection shouldn't surprise us. It's not a sign we're doing something wrong. It should shape us to expect rejection as normal, yet remain faithful and loving regardless.
 - a) We guard against weariness by remembering that the results don't depend on us. Our job is faithfulness, not success. Encouragement comes from fixing our eyes on Jesus and remembering that rejection is part of gospel ministry, not a failure of it. Prayer, fellowship, and remembering God's bigger plan sustain us.
- 3) Knowing the heart's natural bent toward rejection helps us be patient — we shouldn't expect quick or easy fruit. It keeps us prayerful, because only God can change hearts. God's sovereignty frees us from thinking we can or must "convince" someone into the kingdom. Salvation belongs to him, not us — our job is to proclaim faithfully, not manipulate outcomes.
- 4) It might mean making decisions not based on comfort, career, or wealth but on how we can best serve God's purposes. It's holding our possessions, plans, and futures loosely, trusting God's provision rather than our own strategies.
 - a) It will vary person to person. For some, it might look like intentional habits of prayer, generosity, and contentment. For others, it might mean giving away more than feels safe, choosing less convenience for more gospel opportunity, and regularly asking God to expose where we rely on comfort over him.
- 5) It's hugely encouraging to know that God doesn't wait for us to be perfect, polished, or confident before using us. He delights in using weakness to show his strength. It challenges our pride. It shows us that we can't wholly trust in our gifts, studies, or achievements. It encourages us to grow in humility, prayerfulness, and faith in his power, not ours.
- 6) —
- 7) —
- 8) —