

Pray

with purpose

June 9

Forgiveness & Confession

"forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

~Jesus (Matthew 6:12)

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **But** if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Matthew 6:14-15

Ultimately it is good news that God takes forgiveness so seriously.

An Uncomfortable Balance

Exodus 34:6-7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. **Yet** he does not leave the guilty unpunished..."

Forgiveness puts God's love and mercy at odds with His holiness and justice.

***If** you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.*

Psalm 130:3-4

*"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins."*

~Angel Gabriel

Mystery Solved

Romans 3:23-26

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as **to be just and the one who justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.

Through Jesus, God's justice is expressed in forgiveness!

"Only when we see both the freeness and cost of forgiveness will we get relief from the guilt as well as liberation from the power of sin in our lives."

~Timothy Keller

Living in Balance

1 John 1:7-10

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Confession is the doorway to true forgiveness!

"In confession . . . we open our lives to healing, reconciling, restoring, uplifting grace of him who loves us in spite of what we are."

~Louis Cassels