

Jake Fabish

Session 4 | How Do We Ask for and Accept Forgiveness?

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1 – Gary biblically defined what forgiveness is and where it comes from

Week 2 – Andrew gave us our working definition for forgiveness: “Forgiveness is “a commitment by the offended to pardon graciously the repentant from moral liability and to be reconciled to that person, although not all consequences are necessarily eliminated.” – Chris Braun

Week 3 – Bob led us through what forgiveness is not. And the ways that understanding what forgiveness is not should impact our understanding.

This week - We will be looking at: How do we participate in the action of giving and receiving forgiveness?

II. THINKING BIBLICALLY

“..you and I must become Christians with respect to our angers... the Christian life begins with an awakening and continues with a reorientation process. It presses forward until you see Jesus face-to-face. You and I are in process.” – David Powlison

I believe that the worst sin one can commit is _____

III. PROPOSITION

Forgiveness and repentance are both expressions of a single grace transforming people who share in a single need.

Primary text: “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation - without regret - whereas worldly grief produces death.” – 2 Cor. 7:10

We will use this text to answer these two questions:

1. What is my appropriate response to “godly grief”?
2. How should I respond when people tell me they are sorry

IV. WHAT THIS PASSAGE TEACHES US ABOUT GRIEF

I would suggest two ways to distinguish them.

1. Worldly regret is when you feel sorry for something you did because it starts to backfire on you and leads to humiliation or punishment. It's the reflex of a proud or fearful ego. Pride will always regret making a fool of itself. And fear will always regret acts that jeopardize comfort and safety. So feeling sorry for something we have done is in itself no sign of virtue. But godly regret is the reflex of a conscience that has wounded God's ego, not its own. Godly regret grieves that God's name has come into disrepute. The focus of godly regret is God.
2. A second way to distinguish worldly regret from godly regret is that godly regret is owing to God's Word putting its finger on sin in our lives. Worldly regret is owing not to God's Word but to the attitudes of men whose praise we don't want to lose. We can feel extremely sorry for something we have done if we detect that the people around us think it
– John Piper

V. THE CORINTHIANS AND HOW TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS – 2 CORINTHIANS 7

- A. Experiencing godly grief
- B. Participate in *active* repentance (2 Cor. 7:7-12)
 - Longing
 - Mourning
 - Zeal for Paul
 - Earnestness/ Sincerity
 - Eagerness for restoration
 - Indignation over past failing
 - Fear of God
 - Zeal in action
 - Punishment - committed to justice
- C. Receive “*Salvation without regret.*”
 - Fruit of Repentance
 - Walking in forgiveness
- D. How should we repent?
 - Ask - what is the source of my regret
 - Identify the specific sin committed

- Identify the debt incurred
- Confess your failing
- Repent - change course
- Ask to be forgiven and released from the debt incurred
- Work actively for restoration and their good

VI. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND WHEN WE HAVE BEEN SINNED AGAINST? PAUL'S EXAMPLE

- A. The Posture of Paul's heart
 - a. Anguish for their souls
 - b. Anxiety over his effect on them
 - c. Care for them
 - d. Invested in restoration
- B. Paul's commitment to the righteousness of God and the absolute need for repentance

VII. OUR SINGLE NEED

Forgiveness and repentance are both expressions of a single grace transforming people who share in a single need.

- A. Unbroken Fellowship - with God and His people
- B. Living in the Light

VIII. SUMMARY & APPLICATION

- A. Be quick to acknowledge the way your actions have affected others.
- B. Be committed to forgiveness and reconciliation
- C. Live in the good of the Gospel



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