

THE DOCTRINE OF FORGIVENESS (7)

When a believer knows he has done something sinful, he does not need to wait for any feeling or any rebuke. He needs to immediately go to God and confess it and it becomes one of the amazing benefits of grace that he may assume that if he does that, God will fulfill His promise and cleanse him from all unrighteousness. It is the work of Christ on the cross that makes this kind of forgiveness possible (I John 2:1-2).

This kind of confession is not shallow or simple. It is very honest before God. This is not some “If I sinned, please forgive me.” This is not “Sorry, I goofed up again.” This is a confession that openly and honestly admits guilt before God and names the specific sin and transgressions. We are talking here about actually going to God and talking with Him about the sin out of your heart and with your mouth. That is the condition that must be met.

Type #3 - God offers national cleansing and forgiveness to Israel.

Jeremiah 31:31-34. This national cleansing and forgiveness is offered specifically to Israel and will be implemented when Jesus Christ returns at His Second Coming. God has made national forgiveness promises to Israel that He has not made to any other nation in the world (Zephaniah 3:14-20; Daniel 9:9) – this speaks of a national forgiveness for Israel. Time and time again God invites Israel, His nation, to return to Him.

QUESTION #5 – Does God want His people to forgive others of their sins?

Most just give a simplistic answer to this and say absolutely yes and leave it at that. Actually we know there are passages that do inform us of this responsibility: Luke 17:3-4; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13. **Now when reading these passages, what is often neglected is the phrase that we are to forgive “as God has forgiven us.”** This is not as simple as some would have you to believe. **GOD NEVER IN ANY CONTEXT OFFERS UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS.** In His grace He offers forgiveness, but to have this forgiveness one must meet His conditions for the forgiveness.

Not long ago, there was a mother whose daughter had been raped and murdered by a killer who was now sitting in jail. The mother said as a Christian, it was her job to travel to the prison and forgive the rapist and killer. She said her church said she needed to forgive. Apparently they forgot to mention we are to forgive in the same manner God forgives us.

Does God give out blanket checks of forgiveness to those who refuse to acknowledge their sin and refuse to believe in His Son? The answer is no. God will not only not forgive them, he will condemn them and send them to hell (John 3:36).

When a believer sins, does God just give a blanket check of forgiveness to the believer if he refuses to acknowledge the sin and confess it? The answer is no. In fact, for that very reason some of the Corinthians were weak, sick and dead (I Cor. 11:30). It was for this very reason that Jesus warned He would start killing people in the church of Thyatira (Rev. 2:21-23).