

Forgiveness

Colossians 3

“Forgive, as the Lord forgave you”

- **A call to behaviour**
- **A response to what’s happened to me!**

*Some thoughts on forgiveness
Responses & Actions!*

God has forgiven me!

Psalm 130

Help, GOD—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

Master, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears!

Listen to my cries for mercy.

If you, GOD, kept records on wrongdoings,
who would stand a chance?

As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,
and that's why you're worshiped.

God has forgiven me!

Forgiveness

At the very heart of God's character!

- We need forgiveness
- God offers forgiveness!

Matthew 26 v 27,28

Forgiveness linked to the cross!

Acts 2 v 36 – 39

Forgiveness follows repentance!

Is there (a) sin that cannot be forgiven?

Simple answer : NO!

BUT

What about Matthew 12 v 31,32?

- Pharisees refusing to accept evidence about Jesus
- Unpardonable because refusing to accept pardon

So:

Consistent & deliberate refusal to accept Jesus

Right through to death.

Now I'm forgiven – I need to forgive

Luke 7 vs 36 – 50

A story about forgiveness

“I then shall live as one who's been forgiven”

We need to learn to forgive

Matthew 6 v 14,15

Forgiveness is a chosen attitude!

- *Doesn't depend on repentance of person I forgive*
- *Doesn't remove need for that person to receive justice*

The implications of really forgiving

Ephesians 4 v 31,32

- Unforgiveness in me breeds bitterness
- Forgiveness is a deliberate choice
- Unforgiveness can cause physical symptoms
- Unforgiveness can hinder prayer

*Note: **James 5** calls praying leaders to confess sin so that prayer for healing is not hindered!*

Finally..can I forgive myself?

God has forgiven me!!

....so, believe it!

....so accept it!

Read at home:

Psalm 51

Psalm 32