

Forgiveness

Irma Warr

I. Introduction.

II. The basis of God's forgiveness. Jesus came to be crucified in order to bear the weight of our sins. (Isaiah 53:3-12)

III. The characteristics of God's forgiveness.

A. Cleansing. (Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9)

B. Immediate. (2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9)

C. Complete. (Psalm 103:3; Colossians 2:13; 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 55:7)

D. It is not based on what we deserve. (Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 103:3-4, 8-10)

IV. What happens to forgiven sin. They are forgotten and removed. (Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17; Jeremiah 31:34; Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19; Isaiah 44:22)

V. Prerequisites of forgiveness.

A. Confession. (1 John 1:9)

B. Repentance.

C. Forgiving others. (Mark 11:25)

VI. Principles for forgiving others.

A. Do not say, "If I have hurt you..."

B. Do not say, "I'm sorry..."

C. Ask, "Will you forgive me?"

D. Do not go beyond the circle of the offense.

E. Do not dump your garbage at the expense of another person.

F. We are to forgive over and over. (Matthew 18:29)

V. Our forgiving ourselves.

A. Forgiving ourselves is one of the most difficult thing.

B. We should move on from what God has already forgotten.

C. God's grace is bigger than our sins. (Jeremiah 32:27; Ephesians 1:7)

D. God forgives besetting sins. (Hebrews 12:1-3; Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 86:5; 106:33-34; Romans 8:1; 8:33-34)

E. The forgiven are happy and blessed. (Psalm 32:1, 4-7; Isaiah 1:18-19; Acts 13:39; Romans 4:8; Colossians 1:23)

Application questions:

1. What does it require to be forgiven by God?

2. How can we overcome our struggles with forgiving people?

3. How would you characterize God's forgiveness to someone who has never experienced it?
