

“Growing 101”

“Introduction to Foundational Principles”

“Discovering A New Freedom: Forgiveness”

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

1 John 1:9

A. We all stand in need of forgiveness...

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

1. We have all sinned!

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23

2. Sin is a willful decision against God’s law.

“Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.” James 1:14

3. Sin separates us from God.

“It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore.” Isaiah 59:2

4. Sin requires forgiveness.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

B. What happens when we don’t receive or extend forgiveness?

“Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.’” Genesis 1:26a

“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.” Psalm 139:14

1. God designed us for forgiveness. A lack of forgiveness is destructive to our bodies. The medical benefits alone can be lowering the risk of heart attack, improving cholesterol levels and sleep, reducing pain, blood pressure and levels of anxiety, depression, and stress. It can also give healthier relationships, improved mental health, stronger immune system, and improved self-esteem.
2. A lack of forgiveness is a prison that holds us captive in our minds.

3. A lack of forgiveness keeps us fixed in the past, destroying our present, and prohibiting us from enjoying our future.

“Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11

C. What do we do with sin?

“‘Come now, let’s settle this,’ says the LORD. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.’” Isaiah 1:18

1. We need to confess our sin.

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1John 1:9

2. We need to repent of our sin.

“Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.” Acts 3:19

3. We need to forsake our sin.

“Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God.” 1 John 3:9

D. When God forgives...

“For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.” Colossians 1:13-14

1. Because of His kindness, He bought our freedom.

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins.” Ephesians 1:7

“Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?” Romans 2:4

2. Because he loves us just as we are, he gave His life for us.

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

3. And when He forgives, it is “*just-as-if-I’d*” never sinned.

“I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.” Isaiah 43:25

“He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.” Psalm 103:12

“Then He says, ‘I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.’” Hebrews 10:17

4. He even removes the guilt of our sin!

“You forgave the guilt of your people—yes, you covered all their sins.” Psalm 85:2

E. How do we start on the pathway of forgiveness?

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

1. Admit that you are a sinner.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23

2. Believe that Jesus died for your sins.

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

3. Confess your sins to Him.

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9

4. Decide to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

“Dear God,

I know I’m a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.

I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that You raised Him to life.

I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do Your will.

I pray this in the Name of Jesus. Amen.”

“God has a great plan for your future...and forgiveness is just the beginning!”

Next Week: “Following A New Master: A Daily Guide”

A NEW FREEDOM: HOW TO BE FORGIVEN

Although victory over sin is rightfully yours, there will be times when you miss God’s perfect will. Whenever one fails or sins, Satan will immediately condemn, “Now you’ve really messed up. God hates you.” However, in His Word, God makes provision for His children who sin and come short of His glory as we see in our memory verse, 1 John 1:9. Forgiveness is being reconciled on the basis of obedience.

HOW DOES THE NEW BELIEVER HANDLE GUILT?

COMPARE THE OLD LIFE WITH THE NEW LIFE:

The Old Life:

1. Living under condemnation
2. Guilty
- 3.
- 4.

The New Life:

1. Living without condemnation
2. Forgiven
- 3.
- 4.

We receive God’s full forgiveness as we confess our sins to Him. To confess a sin means to uncover it and call it exactly what God calls it. This honest confession must include a willingness to forsake the sin. God promises not only to forgive us but also to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In this lesson, you will study how to experience a new freedom through forgiveness.

I. FORGIVENESS OF SIN CAN BE OURS BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF GOD.

1. How is God described in Psalm 86:5?

2. In the same verse, how does He respond when we confess?

3. On what basis are we forgiven according to Ephesians 1:7?

4. According to 1 John 1:9,
a) Name two characteristics of God that are the basis of His dealing with man:

1)

2)

b) Name two things God does for us when we confess:

1)

2)

5. If God loves the sinner, why does He hate sin? Romans 6:23 & 12:9

6. Because of God’s attitude, what should be our attitude toward those who have offended us? Ephesians 4:32

7. Should one continue to feel guilty about sin after it has been confessed and forgiven? Isaiah 43:25

II. FORGIVENESS OF SIN CAN BE OURS IF WE CONFESS OUR SIN.

1. According to Psalm 66:18, why should we confess our sin?

2. How should one confess? Leviticus 5:5

3. When confessing, what do we say to God?

4. Discuss three things that one should not say about sin from 1 John 1:8-10:

a) I am not responsible for my sin. Vs 8a

b) Sin has no negative effects on me. Vs 8a

c) I have not sinned. Vs 10a

5. Name one thing that is right to say about sin. 1 John 1:9

6. According to Psalm 139:23, 24 and Psalm 38:18, what should be our attitude toward sin?

7. What should accompany our confession of sin? Proverbs 28:13

III. FORGIVENESS OF SIN IS ASSURED BY GOD’S PROVISIONS

1. According to Romans 5:8, how does God demonstrate His love for sinners?

2. What does “justified by His Blood” mean in Romans 5:9?

3. What does Romans 5:11 say we receive through Jesus?

CHALLENGE: Follow David’s example in Psalms and 2 Samuel

1. David’s confession, Psalm 51

2. God’s heart, Psalm 103

4. Consequences, despite forgiveness, 2 Samuel 12:13, 14
5. God can still bring about good, 2 Samuel 12:24

QUESTION: How are we to walk after confession? 1 John 1:7, 38

APPLICATION: Perhaps, through the study of this lesson, something has come to your mind which is hindering your fellowship with God – some sin that you have committed for which you have not asked forgiveness. If so, write down what God has spoken to you about.

Confess this to God, and claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 that He has forgiven your sin. Thank Him for His forgiveness.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. What are some practical things we can do to show a forgiving attitude?

2. What does Hebrews 10:12 say about Christ's sacrifice?

3. To what extent are we to forgive others? Colossians 3:13

4. List four observations from Romans 6 about sinning.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

CONCLUSION: *"The possibility of sin does not mean the probability of it!" – John Maxwell*

Only the offender can ask for forgiveness...

Only the offended can give forgiveness...

MAN IS THE OFFENDER...

GOD IS THE OFFENDED.

MAN IS THE FORGIVEN!

GOD IS THE FORGIVER!