



The Lost Art of Receiving Forgiveness Part 2

Lesson Four

The Four Fundamentals of Forgiveness

The Biblical Basis for Being Set Free and Setting Others Free in Christ



Recovering the Lost Art of Receiving Forgiveness

1. CLEARING UP the Confusion About Confession. 1John 1:5-2:2

Fact #1 Sin always SEPARATES us from a totally holy God. (1:5)

Fact #2 God FORGAVE us and all our sins in Christ Jesus by His atoning blood sacrifice. (2:1-2)

- 1) Jesus Is Our Advocate: His *intercession* for *our salvation* is ever present before the Father. Heb 7:23-35
- 2) Jesus Is Our Atonement: His *satisfaction* for *our sins* is ever present before the Father! Heb 2:17; Rom 3:24-25; 1John 4:10

Fact #3 Forgiven believers STILL SIN and need to confess their sins to receive God's forgiveness. (1:6-2:1)

Don't Lie About the Truth That the Forgiven Still Need Forgiving

1) Don't lie to OTHERS about the consequences of a sinful lifestyle in the life of the forgiven believer. (1:6-7)

► **False Claim of Some Professing Believers and False Teachers**

"I can have unbroken, ongoing fellowship with God, while intentionally pursuing a lifestyle of darkness (outright persistent sinning)!" (v. 6a)

► **Counter-Claim of True Believers and the NT Apostles**

"No! Whoever says it's okay for your talk to not match your walk as an overall pattern of your life is lying and not practicing the truth (biblical Christianity consistent with the Gospel Jesus and His apostles preached)!" (v. 6b)

► **Truth Claim that Forgiven Believers Still Need CLEANSING from Sin.**

"Those who forsake a sinful lifestyle to pursue a godly lifestyle are enjoying fellowship with those who hold to the gospel message of Jesus and His apostles and are continually being cleansed of all their sins by the blood of Jesus. (v. 7; John 13:10; 15:3; 1John 1:7, 9)

2) Don't lie to YOURSELF about the separation sin causes in the life of the forgiven believer. (1:8-9)

► **False Claim of Some Professing Believers and False Teachers.**

"Because we are forgiven believers, dealing with any separation due to ongoing sin is no longer an issue for us!" (v. 8a)

➤ **Counter-Claim of True Believers and NT Apostles.**

"No! Whoever denies the guilt of ongoing sin is self-deceived and lying to themselves about truly possessing gospel truth in their heart! (v. 8b)

➤ **Truth Claim that Forgiven Believers Still Need to Be CONFESSING Their Sins.**

"Those who refuse to deny the presence of sin in their lives will deal with their sin and guilt before God by agreeing with Him about their sins, so He will forgive them and cleanse them all unrighteousness. (v. 9)

David's Classic Confession as a Forgiven Believer – Psalm 32:1-7; 51:1-19

3) Don't lie about **GOD** as though He says forgiven believers have no sins to confess or never have to deal with any ongoing separation due to sin. (1:10-2:1)

➤ **False Claim of Some Professing Believers and False Teachers.**

"Because we are forgiven believers, we no longer have to deal with any kind of separation due to sin – since we don't really "sin" anymore!" (v. 10)

➤ **Counter-Claim of True Believers and NT Apostles**

"No! Whoever says such things makes God out to be liar and is not truly born again – the gospel truth is not in their hearts!

➤ **Truth Claim that Forgiven Believers Still Need to Be FORGIVEN of Their Sins.**

"Look, I am not writing about the pattern of sin (1:6-7), the presence of sin, and the practice of sin in your lives as forgiven believers to encourage you to sin! But if anyone does sin (and you will), you can be sure there is forgiveness for the forgiven with the Father because Jesus is our interceding Advocate and our satisfying Atonement! (2:1-2)

The Book of First John Answers a Very Vital Question for Every Christ Follower

*How can we experience the full joy of our salvation and the full fellowship with our holy, heavenly Father,
IF WE STILL SIN as FORGIVEN BELIEVERS?*

Fact #4 There are **TWO** kinds of forgiveness in Christ. (1:5-2:2)

1) **Eternal Forgiveness** in order to **ENTER** into an **eternal relationship** with God the Father.

1John 2:1-2; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:13

2) **Parental Forgiveness** in order to **ENJOY ongoing fellowship** with God the Father.

1John 1:5-10; Matthew 6:12; John 13:4-11

God the Father Wants His Children to Be Crystal Clear About Confessing Their Sins as Forgiven Believers

- Our eternal salvation and total forgiveness does **not** mean we are sinless but that we sin less and less.
- Our eternal salvation and total forgiveness is **not** secured by our ongoing confession of sins, but by what Jesus **has done, is doing, and has yet to do** for us as our interceding Advocate and satisfying Atonement before the Father.
- Our eternal salvation and total forgiveness **is** the reason we **desire** to sin less and less and **seek** to quickly confess our sins and receive parental forgiveness and cleansing to restore the joy of our fellowship with the Father!

Next Week: How to Receive Forgiveness After Forgiveness by Confessing Our Sins