

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Forgiven to Become Forgivers  
Lesson 1 - Understanding God's Forgiveness**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022  
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

<b>Breakdown of "Forgiven to Become Forgivers" Bible Study Series</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Key Texts</b>
5/4/2022	Lesson 1 - Understanding God's Forgiveness	Romans 4:7, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
5/11/2022	Lesson 2 - Steps to Receiving God's Forgiveness	1 John 1:8-10, Luke 15:11-32
5/18/2022	Lesson 3 - Going from Forgiven to Forgivers	Ephesians 4:31-32, Matthew 18:21-35
5/25/2022	Lesson 4 - Learning to Become a Forgiving Person	Luke 6:27-36, Matthew 18:15-17
6/1/2022	Lesson 5 - Benefits of Living a Forgiving Life	Romans 12:18-21, 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
6/8/2022	Lesson 6 - Forgiveness and Healing	James 5:16, Psalm 103:2-5
6/15/2022	Lesson 7 - Loving Those Who Hate You	Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-31
6/22/2022	Lesson 8 - Lessons from Story of David and Saul	1 Samuel 19, 1 Samuel 24
6/29/2022	Lesson 9 - Forgiveness and Reconciliation	Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 12:18
7/6/2022	Lesson 10 - Living Un-offended	Matthew 11:6, 1 Corinthians 13:5

**Key Text: Romans 4:7-8** *"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."* NKJV

### **What is God's Forgiveness?**

God's forgiveness is unique, it is from above and divine. It is a product of His nature. Psalm 103:8-12 says *"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."*

God's forgiveness can be understood from the following scriptures:

**2 Corinthians 5:18** *"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (NJV)"*

**Romans 4:7-8** *"Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. 8 Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin." (NLT)"*

God's forgiveness means that because we are forgiven:

- Our sins are covered or "put out of sight". I.e., He no longer sees them or associates them to us
- Our record of sin has been cleared. It is now blank.
- He no longer counts our sins against us. Our sins are no longer a factor in His relationship with us.
- We are no longer held liable for our sins or in any way have to pay for them.

### **Why Do We Need Forgiveness?**

Forgiveness is a fusion of two major principles of God which are mercy and justice. The principle of justice is that people receive what they deserve. The principle of mercy is that people do not receive the punishment they deserve. Forgiveness means "Mercy triumphs over judgment" James 2:13 (NIV)

#### **1. In God's plan, sin cannot go unpunished**

**Genesis 2:17** *"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (NKJV)"*

**Proverbs 11:21** – “... the wicked will not go unpunished;” (NKJV)

**Ezekiel 18:4** - “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.” (NKJV)

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

## 2. All of us have sinned and are therefore under the penalty of sin

**Romans 5:12-15** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. 15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! (NIV)

**Question 1:** How did we all become sinners?

**Question 2:** Are we sinners because we sin, or do we sin because we are sinners?

## 3. Jesus paid the penalty of sin paving the way for forgiveness – He took our judgment to we can receive mercy.

**Colossians 1:13-14** “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (NIV)

**Ephesians 1:7** “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace” (NIV)

## 4. Forgiveness is necessary for us to be restored with God: The ultimate goal of God’s forgiveness is restoration of our relationship with God.

**2 Corinthians 5:18** “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (NKJV)

## Forgiveness After Salvation

**1 John 1:8-9** “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (NIV)

**1 John 3:6** - No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. (NIV)

**Question 3:** How can we reconcile these two seemingly conflicting scriptures?

- After salvation, a believer can (and will) still sin.
- A believer should have a different attitude to sin (repentance) and not continue a life of sin.
- Sin damages a believer’s relationship (fellowship) with God. **1 John 1:6** “If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth” (NIV)

## Summary of Truths About God’s Forgiveness

1. God's forgiveness is a gift and a product of His grace. It is free for everyone (both believer and unbeliever) because it was paid for by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:7
2. Forgiveness cannot be earned; it must be received by faith as a gift. Romans 3:23-24
3. For the unsaved, forgiveness is received through repentance and confessing Christ (not sins) Eph.1:7
4. For a believer, forgiveness is received by confession of sin (homologéō) which means; to agree with, to concede, not to deny. 1 John 1:8-9
5. God’s forgiveness is final. **Luke 7:48** - Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” (Romans 4:7-8)