

FORGIVE

Forgiveness is directly connected to _____.

Until we understand the _____ of God, we will not experience the gracious freedom to _____.

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6-7 (NIV)

- God's _____ is expressed through _____ wickedness, rebellion and sin.
- God's _____ is expressed through rightly _____ all who are guilty of sin.
- God does not mercifully forgive _____ justly punishing sin.

Through the _____, God allowed an animal to be substituted to bear His judgment for a person's sin.

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Leviticus 17:11 (NIV)

Through Jesus Christ's death, God allowed Jesus to be _____ to receive His _____ for all sin.

⁸ 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. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. ^{2:1} My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:8-2:2 (NIV)

We are not just saved _____ God's judgment on sin; we are saved _____ God's judgment on sin.

God _____ all sin and simultaneously demonstrated His _____ through the death of Jesus Christ.

²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. ²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:20-26 (NIV)

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Trusting in God's measure of _____ on all sin gives us the grace and freedom to _____ others.

Do I trust that Jesus Christ's death is good enough to atone for my sins against God?

Do I trust that Jesus Christ's death is good enough to atone for those who have sinned against me?

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TEACHING SUMMARY:

There are many reasons we don't forgive others. We don't feel like forgiving. We don't want to lose control. We want to have power over the person who wronged us.

When wronged, often our reaction is to desire justice or vengeance for the wrongs committed against us. Our desire for justice and vengeance is what keeps us from forgiving others.

Understanding the justice of God is what enables us to receive God's forgiveness and empowers us to forgive others. To withhold forgiveness is to not trust in God's measure of justice on all sin. To not forgive is to not believe that Jesus Christ's suffering and death is enough for your sins against others and ultimately God. To not forgive others is to reject that Jesus Christ's crucifixion is enough justice for the sins committed against you.

Trusting in God's measure of justice on all sin will give us the strength and grace we need to forgive others.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What makes forgiveness hard for you?

How does it make you feel knowing that God provided Himself, as Jesus, to cover the sins of all?

Do you believe that the sacrifice of Jesus is enough? Why or why not?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Matthew 6:5-15

Day 2) Matthew 26:27-29

Day 3) Luke 17:3-4

Day 4) Matthew 18:15-17

Day 5) Acts 13:37-39

Day 6) Hebrews 2:16-18

Prayer: Father, I trust in Your measure of justice on all sin. Thank you for grace and the freedom to forgive others.