Our Feelings About Forgiveness

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INTRODUCTION

- Forgiveness is not fiction. Forgiveness is real.
- We ask ourselves, how can God forgive me when I don't really feel forgiven?
- If we are following God, if we are not in sin, and if we are striving to obey God, we can know with confidence, with assurance, we're forgiven.

1 Our Feelings About Forgiveness

Acts 16:23–34

- Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you'll be saved, you and your household.
- He set food before them, and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.
- He went from a nervous wreck to rejoicing in he and his families' sins being forgiven and being washed away.
- One cannot prevent the birds of guilt from flying over us. But we can prevent them from nesting in our hair.
- He didn't dwell on sin, he transformed to rejoicing because his sins were washed away.

2 Facts About Forgiveness

1 Peter 1:13–21; 1 John 1:9

- You were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold, but you were redeemed with a precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
- Forgiveness is offered. It's offered only to those who want it and do the things necessary to receive it, but you can be forgiven.
- Biblical forgiveness is the deliberate act of releasing someone from the debt of guilt or sin, motivated by the love of God and his grace and restoring relationships as God has restored us through Christ.
- It involves both a judicial aspect where God removes the penalty of sin, but it also deals with the relationship aspect where the broken relationship is restored.

3 Our Foundation About Forgiveness

Romans 3:22–26

- The cross is all about all.
- There are no worse off or lesser sins. All sin is the breaking of divine law.
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

- You're forgiven if you've allowed the blood of the cross to be applied. How does that happen? At baptism.
- Justification is being aligned aright and placed back as entire as we once were before sin.

4 Paul's Pattern: Finally, Forgiveness

Acts 22:3–21; 1 Timothy 1:12–17; 2 Timothy 4:7–8

- Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- For this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all long suffering as a pattern, a pattern to those who are going to believe on him for everlasting life.
- There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge will give to me on that day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- I was the chief of sinners, but then later he says, But I know something. I know my forgiveness is real.

5 Our Friends Help Us

1 Corinthians 16:17; Acts 15

- Our friends help us when forgiveness is a challenge when we're having trouble forgiving ourselves.
- Saul of Tarsus always remembered his old life of sin, but he didn't allow the sin to nest in his hair forever. He let the Lord replace the sin nest with the crown of righteousness.
- All of them in some way helped Paul in the journey to help him realize he was forgiven.
- Some things were tough. But they dealt with it, they worked with it, and they solved the issue without division.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We as brethren are to shoulder the responsibility of not only remembering how it felt when we were feeling unforgiven, but also with weeping with the woes of those who right now are feeling those sorrows.**

MY NOTES