

BIBLE SPOTLIGHT - ON FORGIVENESS quotes

1 “For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy”. Leviticus 11:44.

“The LORD, The LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty**”. Exodus 34:6-7.

2 What needs to be forgiven?

“...the **forgiveness of sins**”. Ephesians 1:7.

What exactly is sin?

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.**” 1 John 3:4.

If we break any of the 10 commandment law of God then we have committed sin, which then needs to be forgiven.

3 Who can we sin against?

“...how then can I do this great wickedness, and **sin against God?**” Genesis 39:9.

“...ye **sin against Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 8:12.

The first 4 of the 10 commandments reveals in what ways we can sin against God and against Jesus Christ.

“If one man **sin against another**”. 1 Samuel 2:25.

“Do not **sin against the child**”. Genesis 42:22.

“...my brother **sin against me**”. Matthew 18:21.

“If a man **sin against his neighbour**”. 2 Chronicles 6:22.

“...ye **sin so against the brethren.**” 1 Corinthians 8:12.

“Let not the king **sin against his servant**”. 1 Samuel 19:4.

The last 6 of the 10 commandments reveals in what ways we can sin against other human beings.

4 What occurs when we break God's law and sin?

"And **forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.**" Luke 11:4.

The Greek word used for "indebted" is "opheilo", and it translates and means "to owe, to be under obligation, be bound, be in debt, be guilty" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, word #3784). So when we commit a sin, that very action places us in debt to those whom we sinned against, and we are then bound under solemn obligation to pay them back what we owe them, and we will remain guilty until we do so.

5 How do we pay back those whom we sinned against?

-- If we have sinned against God or Jesus Christ, what are we to do?

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD." Psalms 32:5.

-- If we acknowledge and confess to God and Jesus that we have sinned against Them, then what will happen?

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

"Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him...**I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me**". Matthew 18:32.

6 If we have sinned against another human being, what are we to do?

“Confess your faults one to another”. James 5:16.

-- If we do acknowledge and confess to another human that we have sinned against them, then what will happen? That all depends upon if they know exactly how to forgive, and further if they know what it means to remove our indebtedness to them.

The Hebrew word for “forgiveness” is “celiychah” and it translates and means “pardon, forgiveness” (Strong’s, word #5547), and the Hebrew word for “forgiven” is “nasa”, and it translates and means “to accept, cast, contain, ease, forgive, help, hold up, lift up, pardon, raise up, receive, respect, spare, take away, yield” (Strong’s, word #5375). In Greek the word for “forgiven” as well as “forgive” is “aphiemi”, and it translates and means “to send forth, to forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let alone, let be, let go, omit, put away, remit, suffer, yield up” (Strong’s, word #863).

According to the Bible, true forgiveness means that when a person come to you acknowledging and confessing their sin against you and seeking your forgiveness, you are to:

#1 - Willingly receive them with respect - no matter how much suffering they may have caused you.

#2 - Help ease their mind and spare adding to their guilty feelings by yielding to their desire for pardon and then freely forgive them.

#3 - Cast, lay aside, omit, remit, forsake, put and take away the debt they owe you - no matter how large or small that debt might be.

#4 - Lift, raise and hold them up so that you can send them forth relieved, happy and free in the Lord.

#5 - Let go, let alone, leave it and let their sin and its memory be and remain contained in the past.