

10. After the Lord's Prayer: After teaching the Lord's Prayer, Jesus said: "...if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions" (Matt. 6:14-15).

A Forgiveness Difference:

11. God's forgiveness to us is **HIS forgiveness**, but our forgiveness to others is **OUR forgiveness**. We forgive because God has forgiven us, *but the other person still needs God's forgiveness!*

Summary

God's forgiveness to us:

- Planned it before we sinned.
- Offers it to us as a gift.
- Offers it when we are not sorry.
- Offers it when we do not deserve it.
- It's free, full, and immediate.

God's forgiveness to others:

- He offers it to everyone.
- Only those who receive it have it.

Our forgiveness to others:

- We planned it before they sinned.
- We offer it to others as a gift.
- We offer it when they are not sorry.
- We offer it when they do not deserve it.
- Our forgiveness is free, full, and immediate.

Conclusion

Look at the image on the front: As a confined wild bird rejoices to be free, *so we should rejoice in God's forgiveness!*

Now, having been set free by God, *let us set others free and point them to God by offering our forgiveness – freely, fully, and immediately!*

Finally, *let us pray for all who sin against us (Matt. 5:44), which will bless them and give us peace!*

Bible verses: New American Standard Bible – 1995

Connect With Us

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Forgiveness

- ➔ Understand It
- ➔ Enjoy It
- ➔ Extend It



Introduction

Dear Friend! Life involves many things, *but two are very important:*

- ◆ Relationship with God
- ◆ Relationship with Others

In both cases, *forgiveness is essential!*
Why? It's **the glue!**

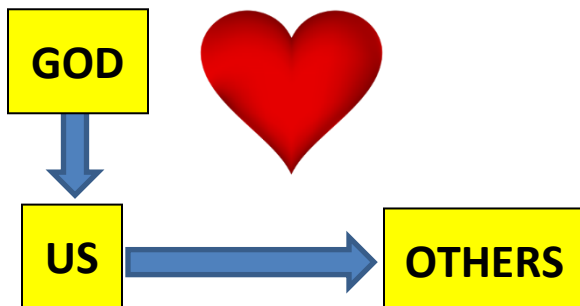
This brochure will help you
◆ understand, ◆ enjoy, and ◆ extend forgiveness, *which will keep your relationships **glued together!***

Forgiveness – Who Is Involved?

God, Us, and Others:

- ♦ **God** – He is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, holy, gracious, and merciful.
- ♦ **Us** – From the viewpoint of this brochure, **we** are *repentant sinners*. What does that mean? By the work of the Holy Spirit:
 - *We know we have sinned against God (Ps. 51:4).*
 - *We know we deserve hell (Matt. 5:22).*
 - *We know we are helpless to escape (Rom. 5:6).*
 - *We are sorry for our sins (Acts 2:36-37).*
 - *We are trusting in Jesus for eternal life (Acts 16:31).*
- ♦ **Others** – From the viewpoint of this brochure, **others** are *unrepentant sinners*.

The Forgiveness Diagram



GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO US

God's Timing to Forgive Us:

1. God planned to forgive us before we sinned: “[Christ] was foreknown **before the foundation of the world**” (1 Pet. 1:20).
2. God removed all sins on Good Friday: “...I will remove the iniquity of that land in **one day**” (Zech. 3:9).

God's Justification to Forgive Us:

3. Jesus fulfilled the law: “I did not come to abolish but **to fulfill**” (Matt. 5:17).
4. Jesus bore all sins: “...the LORD [the Father] has caused the **iniquity** [sin, wickedness] **of us all** to fall on Him [the Son]” (Isa. 53:6).

God Gifting His Forgiveness:

5. God knows we cannot earn His forgiveness, so He offers it to us as a gift: “...**the free gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23).

The Thoroughness of God's

Forgiveness:

6. God fully forgives: “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**” (1 Jn. 1:9).

GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS

Remember: For this brochure, others are *unrepentant sinners*.

God Offering Forgiveness:

7. To everyone: “For God so loved **the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (Jn. 3:16).

People Receiving Forgiveness:

8. Only those who are trusting in Jesus for eternal life: “**He who has the Son has the life...**” (1 Jn. 5:12). // Sadly, those who keep living in unrepentance also keep rejecting God's gift of forgiveness.

OUR FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS

Connections between God, Us, and Others:

9. During the Lord's Prayer: “...forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matt. 6:12). // When we sin, we owe a debt to God. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to forgive the debts we owe to Him **IN THE SAME WAY WE FORGIVE THE DEBTS THAT OTHERS OWE TO US**.