

Seek Forgiveness From God & Others

Points to Consider

1. Challenges to seeking forgiveness from God and others
2. Challenges to accepting forgiveness from God and others
3. Challenges to forgiving ourselves

Challenges to seeking forgiveness from God and others

We think we can _____ our sins from God and others

David tried hiding his sins from God and others.

Ps 32:1-5 *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. NKJV*

A man is blessed when his sins are covered by _____, not covered up by himself.

Ps 139:7-12 *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. NKJV*

David finally realized that God is everywhere and knows _____. You can't hide your sins from God. Others have tried it including Adam and Eve, Achan, and Jonah.

Practical Application: If there is a sin you think you are hiding from God or others, acknowledge it and seek forgiveness.

We think our sins are unforgiveable

Ps 86:5 *For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. NKJV*

Ps 103:8-14 *The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*

Col 1:13-14 *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. NKJV*

Our forgiveness is complete because the Lord is _____ to forgive and slow to anger (Ps 86:5; Ps 103:8).

Our forgiveness is complete because it is based on God's goodness not ours (Ps 86:5).

Our forgiveness is complete because God forgives us for _____ name's sake not ours (Is 43:25; Ps 25:11; Ps 79:9).

Our forgiveness is complete because it was paid in full by the precious _____ of Christ (1 Peter 1:17-22)

Practical Application: Find a verse about God's desire to forgive and post it on your wall or put it on your screen saver. Ask God to forgive your sin for His name's sake.

Challenges to accepting forgiveness from God and others

We keep sinning. It is so difficult to accept God's forgiveness if you keep committing the same sin repeatedly.

Practical Application

1 Cor 10:12-13 *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. NKJV*

_____ for the way of escape God provides.

_____ for help from someone who has overcome that sin.

Matt 5:29-30 *If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*

Put _____ between you and sin. Make it hard to keep sinning.

- In the movie Fireproof a man who was having difficulty looking at things online that he shouldn't, took a sledgehammer to his computer. Would you give up your smartphone for a dumb phone if it were the only way you could stop sinning?
- I know a guy who gave up pizza because when he ate pizza, he always wanted a beer.
- We probably have all known people who have had to get rid of all their friends so they could stop sinning.

Eph 4:25-32 *Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. NKJV*

Replace the sin with something spiritual. Replace lying with telling the truth. Replace the temptation to be angry with meaningful conversations that resolve conflict. Replace the sin of stealing with the gift of giving. Replace corrupt communication with edifying communication. If you have an issue with gossiping, start making a conscience effort to talk positively about people. If you have an issue wasting time, make a list of useful things you can do with your time and start doing them.

We keep wanting to sin

Matt 5:27-28 *You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. NKJV*

Practical Application

Be _____ with yourself. God is!
Remember the cost paid for that sin.

Heb 12:14-17 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. NKJV

Remember that sin has _____. (health, wealth, relationships)

2 Peter 2:18 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." NKJV

See sin for what it really is: _____ and mire.

Phil 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. NKJV

Fill your mind with good thoughts.
_____ a sinful desire with a good desire.

Challenges to forgiving ourselves

We dwell on our past failures

God wants us to remember our past failures to be in awe of his forgiveness.

God wants us to remember our past failures to prevent them from _____ us of our future.

The devil wants us to remember our past failures to rob us of future joy and prevent us from honoring God.

Practical Application

Phil 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NKJV

_____ the past and remember the goal.

Col 3:1-17 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, **passion, evil desire, and covetousness**, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. NKJV

Set your mind on things _____.

Don't think about your past sins, think about your future _____.

Remember that the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. (That used to be us!)

Surround yourself with _____ people who are not interested in the sinner you used to be, but in the saint you have become.

Let the peace of God _____ in your hearts!

Don't dwell on what God has forgotten.

People keep reminding us of our past failures

Practical Application: Cut ties with people who constantly remind you of how bad you used to be, and find people who totally forgive you for your past. Also, we need to develop an _____ of forgiveness at PSD.

Other people won't forgive you

Joab never forgave Abner for killing his brother. Absalom never forgave Amnon for sinning against his sister.

1 Cor 4:1 *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. NKJV*

Practical Application: Accept the reality that some people will never forgive you, and that will have no bearing on your salvation.

We think feeling perpetually guilty is a sign of spiritual maturity

We must fight the natural desire we have to pay for our own sins. We know that our sins deserve punishment, so we continually punish ourselves to win back God's favor.

Eph 2:4-10 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. NKJV*

Practical Application: Stop trying to earn your way to heaven or punish your way to heaven. Accept God's grace. We need to constantly remind each other of this.