

CREED

(Rediscovering the Foundation of Your Faith)

.....I believe in the forgiveness of sins.....

- * Some skeptics have asked the question, “ Why are christians so obsessed with convincing people thy are sinners?”
- * Others are very good at pointing out the **sin of others!**
- * What is actually being celebrated here is **THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**
- * Emphasis on **FORGIVENESS.**

I. Forgiveness is the answer to a **condition**. A **spiritual cure** for a **spiritual illness**.

A. This issue of **sin** is an issue of **condition!** An issue of **the state of things!** An issue of **being birthed into a fallen world!**

Psalm 51:5

For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

Romans 5:12

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Ephesians 2:1-3

2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil— the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

1. Remember, the word translated sin is **harmatia** in most cases.
2. It means **to miss the mark.**

3. The scriptural implication that can be seen through the scripture is one of ***living in a “missing the mark” existence!***
4. Because of this **“fallen nature”** we therefore miss the mark with **our behavior!**

B. One of the ways to illustrate this condition is by observing the **Fruit of the Spirit.**

Galatians 5:19-23

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, **21** envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control.

1. First, notice that “fruit” is **singular!**
2. What I believe the scripture is saying is, **“the presence of the Spirit brings these characteristics”** on the scene.
3. When the Spirit overshadows the flesh there is:

Love instead of Anger
Peace instead of Dissensions
Joy instead of Revelries
Faithfulness instead of Adulteries
Kindness instead of Hatred

C. Alexandr Solzhenitsyn said:

“ If there were only evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line of dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being”.

D. The Apostle Paul says it this way:

Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

II. Some people think that they **do not** need forgiveness! Others are on the opposite end of the spectrum and think that **God will not forgive!**

A. In both cases the reason stems from a distorted view of God!!

1. In one case it is not understood how we have **fallen from the image of God!**
2. In the other case the **depth of God's love is not grasped!**

Matthew 1:21

And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, "for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

26 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."

27 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, **28** for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant[a] between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many."

Luke 24:47

47 It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'

3. The critics of Jesus accused Him of being a "**friend of sinners**".

B. The word used in many places for “forgive” is the Greek word “**aphiemi**” which means “**to release**”.

1. God is saying that He wants to **release us from guilt!**
2. We can continue to carry the **burden of guilt** or we can ask God to **release** us from the burden and **become free!**

Psalm 103:9-12

9

He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.

10

He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

11

For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

12

He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.

C. This forgiveness we receive is also to **be given!**

Matthew 6:12

and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

Matthew 6:14-15

14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. **15** But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

D. It has been said, “ Holding on to resentment is like drinking poison and hoping the other person gets sick” .

1. This word meaning of “**releasing**” applies here as well.
2. Release the person or group of people!!!

E. The Church needs to fully understand how awesome redemption really is!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. When we are **forgiven** we are **set free!!!!!!!!!!**

Johnn 8:31-36

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. **32** And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

33 “But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free’?”

34 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.

35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

2. I am **forgiven, released, set free and restored!!!!!!!!!!**

3. I am once again a man **who bears God’s image!!!!!!**

4. This releasing and cleansing **restores me and enables** to live as God originally designed me to live!! To be

LIKE HIM!