

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Lesson 32 – August 6

Forgiveness of Sins

Question 89: What is the forgiveness of sins?

Forgiveness is God's costly act in Jesus Christ to pardon sinners and to restore our broken relationships both with God and with one another. Faith, repentance and baptism are the means by which we receive forgiveness. In forgiving others we share the peace of Christ.

Acts 13:38-39 Let it be known to you therefore...that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

1 Pet 1:19 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ.

2 Cor 5:19 In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

Mt 18:21-22, 26:28

21 Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" 22 "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!

28 for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

Mk 1:4, 11:25

4 This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

25 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. "

Lk 3:3 Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

Acts 2:38, 5:31

38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

31 Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven.

Col 1:14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Rom 5:8-10 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

Eph 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Col 3:13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Heb 9:22, 12:14

22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

14 Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

Question 90: Which two other words are sometimes used to express the wonder and reality of forgiveness?

The Bible speaks of "justification" and "sanctification". They describe God's gracious work of forgiveness, a work which is one and inseparable and yet has two distinct aspects to it.

Rom 3:28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.

1 Cor 1:30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

1 Cor 6:11 But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.