

*The Christian's Foundation – the Forgiveness of God*

*Series on forgiveness (1)*

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**Introduction:** How would you describe the foundational beliefs of a Christian?

- A. Everyone has built a foundation for their “Christianity.” But what *kind* is it?
  - 1. There were two kinds of foundations describes in the Sermon on the Mount. (**Mt 7:24-27**)
  - 2. To build a foundation on Christ is to emphasize the relationship!  
(**1 Cor 3:11**)
  - 3. What kind of material are you using? (**1 Cor 3:11-15**)
- B. Understanding the nature of God to the point you are willing to trust Him and build your life on Him is the essence of our foundation.
  - 1. We are rooted in Christ! (**Col 2:6-7**)
  - 2. We are rooted in His love! (**Eph 3:17-19**)
  - 3. Is this your foundation? How would you know that?

***I. God's forgiveness is the first step in building a foundation***

- A. If we do not understand God's forgiveness we have no foundation!
  - 1. In order to understand forgiveness we need to know the righteousness of God! (**Rom 11:22; Rom 1:16-18**)
  - 2. What are we saved from?
  - 3. If we do not understand the bad news, then we can never appreciate the good news! (**Jn 8:21, 24**)
- B. The contrast of two individuals. (**Lk 7:36-39**)
  - 1. Simon, the Pharisee, saw his personal righteousness and knowledge and considered his efforts to place him well before God.
  - 2. He viewed others sins as a means of comparison and would exalt himself in this as well as even put Jesus down.
  - 3. Simon and others like him looked to the outward and would use peer pressure to control and run off the imperfect. They could not understand Jesus and his work of changing the heart. (**Mk 2:15-17; Jn 9:40-41**)
  - 4. Now consider this humble woman. (**Lk 7:40-50**)
- B. Do you know that you have been forgiven? (**2 Pt 1:9**)
  - 1. The power of real forgiveness is so great that it will result in a heart of praise! (**Rev 1:5-6**)
  - 2. This becomes the basis for our talking to others! (Ex. Work – Why are you happy? (**Psa 51:10-15**))
  - 3. If thanksgiving and praise is not a characteristic of you life, then look at your foundation.

***II. God's forgiveness is free but costly!***

- A. How can a man be just before God?
  - 1. Any man who sees the true God will be terrified at his own sinfulness.  
(**Isa 6:1-7**)
  - 2. God in His righteousness must punish every sin that has been committed.

**(Rom 3:23; 6:23)**

3. How then can a man be righteous? He is proclaimed righteous through the blood of Christ. **(Rom 3:24-26)**
- B. The other “possibility” is that men keep all of the law of God without sin.
  1. Only Jesus has done that! Those who try to be right with God on this basis will fail. **(Rom 3:27-28)**
  2. The issue before every man is “Am I forgiven by the blood of Christ?”

### ***III. Upon what basis can I find this forgiveness?***

1. It is either conditional (there is something we must do) or unconditional (All men will be saved).
2. God has chosen that men will be saved conditionally. The condition of our salvation is faith. **(Rom 3:26-27, 29-31; Eph 2:8-9)**
3. This “law of faith” is contrasted with “the deeds of the law”. These are two contrary approaches to God.
  - a. Those who seek to be justified by law must constantly ask: “How much is enough?” The truth is they can never “do enough.”
  - b. There is a bondage to those who seek to be right with God by law alone. **(Rom 7:14, 23-8:1)**
  - c. One of the reasons God gave the Old Law was to prepare men for a Savior. **(Gal 3:21-25)**
  - d. When Christians turn back to a system of law for their justification, they will be lost. **(Gal 2:21-3:4)**
4. God accounts our faith for righteousness. **(Rom 4:1-8)**
  - a. This is an accounting term. What God sees is our faith and upon that basis “faith is accounted for righteousness.”
  - b. But what is faith as used in these verses?

### ***IV. What does your tongue say about your forgiveness?***

- A. Do you treat sin lightly? **(Rom 6:1, 15-18)**
  1. In school there were those who proclaimed “grace” but cursed with their tongue.
  2. To know God’s forgives is to hate sin! **(1 Thess 4:3-8, Titus 1:16)**
- B. How do you view yourself? **(1 Tim 1:15-17)**
  1. If you are guilt-filled and bitter, it will be seen in your life.
  2. Some of the harshest critics are filled with anger and doubt.
- C. How do you deal with sin in others?
  1. Some view that they are strong because they see sin in others. **(Lk 18:9-14)**
  2. Others think they are strong by ignoring or condoning sin in others. **(Jude 22-23)**
  3. Helping our son deal with the guilt of sin.

***Conclusion:*** Will your foundation hold in the storms of this life?

- A. As I get older, I can look back and see the paths many have taken.
- B. This foundation can be built and we can stand on it! **(Jude 24-25)**