

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!



FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Have you struggled with forgiving yourself for past sins? How have you (or will you) moved on?
2. Why is it important to forgive ourselves?
3. What was your best reminder of God’s forgiveness from this study? Which are your favorite forgiveness verses?
4. What is your view of eternal security and why?
5. What was most helpful to you from this study of forgiveness?

A Prayer to Forgive Yourself

Heavenly Father, I understand that there is nothing to gain by holding myself in unforgiveness and there is everything to gain by releasing myself from unforgiveness and beginning the process of healing. I want to move forward and make a positive difference in the future. I confess the ungodly accountability, self-abasement, and the vows I have made to never forgive myself. Because Jesus died for my sins, I choose to forgive myself--to no longer punish myself and be angry with myself. I forgive myself for letting this hurt control me and for hurting others out of my hurt. I repent of this behavior and my attitude. I ask for Your forgiveness and healing. God, help me to NEVER again retain unforgiveness of myself or others. Thank you for loving me and for Your grace to move forward with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



July 22-23, 2017 | YAFI #2 — All About Forgiveness | Dennis Miller, pastor

THE REASON FOR THIS TOPIC —

NINE people asked questions concerning FORGIVENESS (self forgiveness, God’s forgiveness, and “eternal security”) and this message is designed to answer these questions.

I. FORGIVING OURSELVES OF PAST SIN

1. It is often difficult to forgive OURSELVES because we are generally harder on ourselves than on OTHERS. We remember past sins and they cause us to feel SHAME.
2. Forgiving yourself is NOT about FORGETTING past sin. It is about not dredging up the offense to yourself in NEGATIVE ways. Forgiving yourself is simply letting go of what you are holding against yourself so that you can MOVE on in your faith. If God has moved on, shouldn't we do the SAME?
3. We should practice thinking about WHOLESOME things and follow Paul’s example of remembering our FORMER life, but not allow previous sins to hamper FUTURE ministry.
Phil. 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

APP: Practice forgiving YOURSELF and PRAY that way.

II. GOD'S FORGIVENESS FROM SIN

1. All sin is an act of REBELLION against a Holy God. The Bible teaches that we are ALL sinners. We need to seek God's forgiveness if we want to spend ETERNITY with Him.

Lev. 6:1 The LORD said to Moses: 2 "If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving a neighbor . . . or about something stolen, or if they cheat their neighbor, Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. It is true that some have sinned MORE (or less) than others, but even if a person could sin only ONCE, they would still need God's forgiveness. *(And we were born into sin, so we were already needing forgiveness at birth!)*

Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

Psa. 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

3. When we CONFESS our sin the Bible teaches that the Lord forgives completely and chooses to not "REMEMBER" our sin.

Is. 43:25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

4. To ILLUSTRATE the Lord's forgiveness, He tells us that our sins are removed as far as the EAST is from the WEST.

Psa 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

5. When you repent of your sin and turn to Jesus Christ, you are forgiven FOREVER. However, we continually confess our sins to remain in FELLOWSHIP with Him.

Matt. 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

6. The one time that God will REFUSE to forgive your sin (fellowship forgiveness) is when you do not forgive OTHERS.

Matt. 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

7. The reason that God is ABLE to forgive our sins is because of the death of Jesus Christ, who PAID for our sins on the CROSS.

2Cor. 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

APP: If you haven't done so before, SEEK God's forgiveness and rest in the JOY of a right relationship with Him.

III. ARE WE "ETERNALLY SECURE" IN OUR SALVATION?

1. Last week we learned about the Confession of Faith of our denomination (and therefore local church) and we learned of SEVEN "NON-negotiables." The issue of "eternal security" (perseverance of the saints, "once saved, always saved") was NOT included in those statements.

2. This issue, then is not one on which we take a STAND, but we allow for discussion and VARIOUS interpretations.

3. My PERSONAL view is the following:

— Jesus forgave me when I was "His ENEMY," so; if He saves me that way, He can (and will) KEEP me.

Rom 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

— Salvation is not based on my GOODNESS, but on God's GRACE.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

— Multiple Scriptures teach me of the PERMANENCE of my relationship with Jesus Christ.

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Rom. 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— Two illustrations from Scripture:

- Simon Peter and JUDAS — (Luke 22:32, John 13:26)
 - The man living in ADULTERY — (1Cor. 5:1-5)

APP: A good practice is to TRUST that your salvation is permanent, but to LIVE like it is based on your goodness.

Your thoughts or questions?