

DOCTRINE OF FORGIVENESS  
Heritage Trail Bible Church  
McKinley, Minnesota

While human forgiveness remits a penalty or charge, divine forgiveness requires complete satisfaction for the demands of outraged holiness. The debt must be paid.

An Old Testament Jew could only be forgiven when a sacrifice was presented (Lev. 4:20). Thus, forgiveness of sin is extended to the unsaved only as a part of salvation and cannot be claimed by itself, apart from faith in Christ who paid the price for sin.

HEBREWS 9:22-- "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

COLOSSIANS 1:14-- "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

EPHESIANS 1:7-- "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

PSALM 103:12-- "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

ISAIAH 38:17-- "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back."

ISAIAH 43:25-- "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

MICAH 7:18,19-- "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Forgiveness of sins is extended to the believer on the basis of the blood of Christ being perpetually efficacious (I John 1:7), but demands that the believer be honest with himself in naming his sin to God.

I JOHN 1:9-- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

PSALM 51:2 & 3-- "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

The believer is to extend forgiveness to this brother in the Lord based upon the same foundation -- the death of Christ as a payment for sin.

EPHESIANS 4:32-- "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

COLOSSIANS 3:12, 13-- "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

I PETER 4:8-- "And above all things have fervent love among yourselves: for love shall cover the multitude of sins."