

Forgiveness

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Healing Substitution Model: Forgiveness originates in the heart of God and is an expression of His character of love. God's attitude is always one of forgiveness. But redemptive forgiveness includes more than God's personal pardon of our sin. It involves actual reclaiming from sin. To experience forgiveness necessitates a transforming change in the believer, and this necessitated the death of Christ, "for without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of [remission – reclaiming from] sin" (Heb 9:22).

Documentation for Healing Substitution Model:

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "**The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.** Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished. Exodus 34:6,7

No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD, because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the LORD. "**For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**" Jeremiah 31:34

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But **so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...**" Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. Matthew 9:4-7

Jesus said, "Father, **forgive them**, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:28

In him we have **redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:7

But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the promise that He "will abundantly pardon," He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:7-9. **God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He**

sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had **the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."** Psalm 51:10. And again he says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath **He removed our transgressions from us.**" Psalm 103:12. {MB 114.1}

How few make this truth, that only through faith in the **cleansing blood of Jesus Christ there is forgiveness of the sins that cling to human beings like the foul leprosy, a living reality.** {ISM 107.2}

Let the mind and heart awaken to gratitude, and let us come to the Father in the name of Jesus, asking for the **forgiveness of sins, for the cleansing from all unrighteousness.** Let us plead with God that he may "cleanse us with hyssop," that we may be clean, wash us, that we may be "whiter than snow." He will restore unto us the "joy of his salvation," put within us a new heart, a right spirit, put a "new song" into our mouths, "even praise unto our God." {ST, August 28, 1893 par. 9}

The cleansing of the soul from sin includes the gifts of forgiveness, justification, and sanctification. And the inward cleansing of the heart is shown by the outward cleansing of the life. {7MR 341.2}

Our position is demonstrated throughout scripture, but particularly at the crucifixion. Those people who crucified Christ were personally pardoned (forgiven) by our Savior. Yet, they did not open their hearts to Him in order to be delivered from sin, therefore, even though Christ forgave, they remained unforgiven.

Christ's death was not necessary for God to personally pardon. It was necessary for God to reclaim sinners from sin. In other words, without the death of Christ mankind could not be delivered from sin. So, while God remained forgiving, without Christ's death man would have remained infected with sin. Thus, redemptive forgiveness required sinfulness in humanity to be put into remission, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." Hebrews 9:22. Without Christ's life, death and resurrection sin in humanity would not remit and thus mankind could not be restored to God's original design that He created man in Adam to be.