



**What does faithful mean?
What does Just mean?**



The outcome of this is not only that our sins are forgiven but that God purifies and changes us. King David knew this, after committing a pretty spectacular sin, David writes Psalm 51 as a confession. He knows that given a chance he will do the same thing again so he prays.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, Psalm 51v10

What does this mean? Should we do the same?



Repentance is not just feeling sorry for your sin, it means doing something about it. Repentance is about freedom, from sin and guilt, not bondage to them.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1v7

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4v10

On what basis is God able to forgive our sins?



What happens to our sin?

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31v34

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103v12

You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. Micah 7v19

When God forgives He does so completely. As far as He is concerned it is as though we had never sinned. He takes away the sin and the guilt of the sin.



**What do if I go and do the same sin again?
What do I do if I still feel guilty about the sin?**

How you feel is irrelevant, if God has forgiven you then you are forgiven.



**Do you think that God forgives us grudgingly?
What does God want us to do when we become aware of sin?**



Forgiveness is God's idea not ours. He has gone to incredible lengths, to put Himself in a position where He can forgive us. God's forgiveness really is total, full and free.



Satan may try to remind us of our past sins. He has no right. When you dwell on your confessed, forgiven sins, you are doing the enemy's work! "Do not call anything impure that God has called clean", even yourself. Acts 10v15.



Forgiveness is not an end, we sin and God forgives us. It is a beginning, it is God's forgiveness that enables us to live right, please God and serve God. Forgiveness is about your future more than your past.

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Sin and Forgiveness



Sin

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 1 Thess 4v1

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, Colossians 1v10



Becoming a Christian requires a change of lifestyle. As the verses above say, we need to remove from our lives the things that displease God and start living in a way that pleases him. This is both positive and negative. Things you need to stop and things you need to do.



Why do you think Paul uses the phrase 'pleasing God'? What do you think he wants to emphasise?

This is very important, Paul wants to move us away from thinking about a list of do's and don'ts. He wants us to see that the way we behave comes out of a relationship with God. Our behaviour is motivated by a love for God.



Read Galatians 5v19-22

**What kind of things displease God?
What kind of things please Him?**

Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8v8



**What is sin?
What do you think sin is?**

Sin is doing things against what God has commanded us. Against what he wants from us. It is anything that displeases God. This looks nice and simple, we can come up with a list and just keep it. We are going to find it is not that simple.




"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5v27-28


What is sin in this verse?




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 *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Romans 12v16*


What is sin in this verse?

 *He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Luke 10v27*

What is sin in this verse?

 *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 1 John 3v17*

What is sin in this verse?

 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5v18*

What is sin in this verse?

Sin is not just things you do, it is also what you think. This is important because it is the things you think about what you end up doing. What is more, sin is about things like attitudes and motives. It is not only what you do but why you do it.



Why is it important?

God hates sin. He will not tolerate it. He loves righteousness. He wants us to be holy.



When Moses came down Mount Sinai, he gave the people the law, 10 commandments written on stone. But when Jeremiah talks about a new covenant (a covenant is an agreement between God and man, explaining how God plans to accept us.) He says the commandments are not on stone, imposed on us from outside. Instead they are written on our hearts, things that we have chosen to believe and do. Our own decisions to do what is right, not one forced upon us. God wants to change our hearts so that we will want to do what is right. He does this through His Holy Spirit working in us to change us from the inside out.



What does sin do?

Isaiah 59v1-2
Psalm 66v18
Romans 6v23
Hebrew 12v15



Sin separates us from God, it stops us from receiving the blessings that God has for us. It stops us from hearing His voice. It defiles us and in the end it leads to death. God is against sin, not because He is a kill joy and wants us to be miserable but because He knows the effect that it will have in our lives.



Read James 1v14-15

**What kind of process is described in this verse?
Which is worst, theft or envy? Violence or pride?**



I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life-- that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Romans 7v5-24 NLT

Can you identify with this?



When we get saved, God puts in us a desire to be holy, to live a pure life and to please God. But human nature is very good at doing the opposite.

How are we going to live right before God?



Conviction

Conscience is that little voice inside us telling us when we have done wrong, Often our conscience does this. But it is not infallible. We do not always recognise sin, and if we repeat a sin our conscience tends to desensitise and stop worrying us. We even find plausible reasons to claim we have not sinned at all. We cannot rely solely on our conscience.



When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: John 16v8

What is the work of the Holy Spirit described as in this verse?

Conviction means to be made aware of sin, to feel guilty. The Holy Spirit has promised to do this in our lives. The only reason He ever convicts us is so that we can put the sin right! He never convicts us to put us down (condemn) or belittle us. It seems that the more you grow as a Christian and the closer you get to Jesus, the more areas of your life the Holy Spirit puts His finger on. Listen to His voice and deal with sin.



Repentance

When we become aware of sin the first thing we need to do is ask God for forgiveness. We call this repentance. This means:

Acknowledging that we have sinned.
Asking God for forgiveness.
Turning away from sin.



**Which of these do you think is the hardest?
How do you do each of these?**



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1v9

According to this verse what do we need to do?

According to this verse what are the results of confessing our sin?