

DO YOU KNOW HOW Perfectly Forgiven You Are?

Our hope in this study is to give you a solid understanding of your complete and final forgiveness of sins and to address multiple misunderstandings.

I. Forgiveness of Sins: Core of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*

Matthew 1:21

*She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will **save His people from their sins.***

Galatians 1:3-4

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴**who gave Himself for our sins** so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,*

Ephesians 1:7-8

***In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace** ⁸which He lavished on us.*

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them**, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

Isaiah 53:5-6

*But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.*

*⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him.*

II. Complete Forgiveness

A. All means all.

Colossians 2:13

*When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, **having forgiven us all our trespasses.***

B. Consider yourself dead to sin.

Romans 6:8-11

*Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, **dies no more.** Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, **He died to sin once for all;** but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 **Likewise** you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1. We died to sin once for all.

C. Our forgiveness is final and complete due to Jesus' one-time sacrifice which was "good enough".

1. The sacrifices under the law could not make us perfect.

Hebrews 10:1

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

2. The sacrifices of the law could not purify us to the point of having no more consciousness of our sins. The implication is clear. Christ's sacrifice DOES remove consciousness of sins.

Hebrews 10:2-4

For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

3. Christ came to do God's will which was to offer His body for all sins once and for all.

Hebrews 10:5

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,

But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin

You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—

In the volume of the book it is written of Me—

To do Your will, O God.'"

8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 **By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

The word "will" refers here to the will of God which Messiah came to do. The will of God which the First Testament sacrifices could not accomplish was the sanctification of men. This was accomplished through the sacrifice of Messiah. The Greek word "to sanctify," *hagiazō*, means "to set apart for God." Here the work of sanctification refers to the placing of the believing sinner into the status of a saved person, with all the accompanying blessings and enablements which that act includes. The words "we are sanctified" are in the Greek text a perfect participle and a finite verb, showing in the strongest way the permanent and continuous state of salvation into which the believer is brought and in which he lives. The words "once for all" are to be taken with "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ," not here with the act of sanctifying, although verse 14 speaks of the latter fact. The context here is contrasting the many offerings under the Levitical system with the once for all offering of our Lord. Translation: By means of which will we stand permanently sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. -Wuest's Word Studies

4. The Levitical (Old Covenant) sacrifices had to be offered repeatedly, but Christ's sacrifice removed sins forever (perfected us forever).

Hebrews 10:11-14

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

5. This new covenant states that He no longer remembers our sins. As there is only ONE SACRIFICE for sins, this includes all sins: past, present, and future.

Hebrews 10:15-19

But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "**Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.**" 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

III. We have continual cleansing from sin.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

IV. God is not imputing sin to us. (He does not keep an account of our sins.)

V. We receive forgiveness by FAITH in Jesus.

We are forgiven from sins by believing in Jesus.

Acts 10:43

Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

Acts 26:18

To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith (belief) in Me.

VI. We are free from the law and its penalties.

A. Abraham was not under the law. Even though he sinned, God did not rebuke him or punish him for sin. In fact, good came out of his errors.

♦He married his half-sister. (Yet God chose to bring Isaac through Sarah.)

♦When God called him, He told him to leave his family, but Abraham took family with him. (Yet, God protected Lot.)

♦He twice claimed Sarah was his sister to protect himself. (God rebuked the rulers, protected Sarah, and blessed Abraham by the hands of the rulers whom he had deceived.)

♦He tried to fulfill God's promise by taking Hagar as a concubine. (Yet, God blessed His son, Ishmael.)

B. Before the law was given the children of Israel complained constantly. God responded by meeting their needs abundantly (Exodus 13-18).

C. After the Law was given, their complaints were met with judgment and breaking the law was met with punishment (Numbers 11 and 15:32-26).

D. God no longer rebukes us or punishes us for sin under the New Covenant. We were forgiven at the cross once and for all.

VII. Freedom from Sin Consciousness

Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in

those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could **take away sins**.

VIII. Common Misunderstandings about Forgiveness of Sin

A. We are “just sinners saved by grace”. FALSE!

1. We **WERE** sinners. We are now righteous. “Sinner” and “righteous” are **OPPOSITE** terms. Paul **ALWAYS** referred to Christians as “saints” **NEVER** as “sinners saved by grace”.

Romans 5:19

For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.

B. We have to seek forgiveness and forsake all known sin and live free from sin in order to be right with God. FALSE!

1. **Jesus became sin for us to make us righteous. When we believe in Jesus, we are made righteous.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 3:21-26

*But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even **the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe**. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

C. God disciplines us for our sins. FALSE!

1. **God does discipline us in the sense of training, but there is no scripture that says God disciplines us for our sins; however, our sins often have natural consequences.**

D. We need to renounce the sins of our ancestors in order to be free from curses. FALSE!

1. **There is no scripture in the New Testament that says we need to do this. We are only held accountable for our own sins, and our own sins have been forgiven. When we are born again, we are set free from the power of Satan and anything associated with him.**

Colossians 2:15

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

E. God turns His back on us when we sin. FALSE!

1. ***Under the Old Covenant, the people's sins had separated them from God.***

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

2. ***Under the New Covenant, God says that He will never leave us nor forsake us.***

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

F. Even though God forgives us, we still have to pay for our sins. FALSE!

1. ***God is merciful to our unrighteousness (sin). Mercy means to not get what you deserve.***

Hebrews 8:12

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

2. ***We are not under the law or its curses.***

Galatians 3:13-14

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

3. ***Under the New Covenant, when sin abounded, grace abounded all the more. Grace is undeserved favor from God.***

Romans 5:20-21

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- G. Your past sins are forgiven, but you will have to give an account for every sin you commit afterwards at the judgment seat of Christ. God is making a DVD of your life and He is going to display it to all. **FALSE!**

Hebrews 8:12

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

- H. If you sin on purpose, there is no forgiveness for sin. **FALSE!**

1. **Sinning willfully in the context of Hebrews would be to reject Jesus.**

Hebrews 10:26-29

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? (See also Colossians 2:13.)

- I. The yoke of bondage refers to sin. **FALSE!**

1. **The yoke of bondage refers to the law.**

Galatians 5:1-5

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, **you who attempt to be justified by law**; you have fallen from grace.*

- J. Falling from grace means someone has fallen into sinning. **FALSE!**

1. **The term “fallen from grace” refers to someone who is seeking to be justified by the law.**

Galatians 5:4

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

- K. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. **FALSE!**

1. **The Holy Spirit convicts the WORLD of sin for not believing on Jesus, Satan is judged, and we are convicted of RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

John 16:7-11

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because **they do not believe in Me**; 10 of righteousness, because I*

go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

L. We have to forgive in order to be forgiven. FALSE!

1. The Lord's Prayer/Mark 11:25-26

Jesus taught under the Law. The prayer He taught His disciples was how to pray under the Old Covenant. Forgiveness of sins was conditional under the law.

2. After the resurrection, no one taught the believers that in order to be forgiven they had to forgive. Paul taught them to forgive BECAUSE they had been forgiven.

Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

M. We need to confess our sins to a spiritual leader or to each other in order to be forgiven. FALSE!

1. Our sins are continually cleansed apart from confession to anyone.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

N. We need to confess our sins (get our sins under the blood) in order to be forgiven. FALSE!

1. The term "get our sins under the blood" is NOT in the New Testament.

2. "To confess" means to agree with. 1 John 1:9 is intended for unbelievers who did not believe they had sin (early Gnosticism). Notice that John is witnessing to them in chapter 1. John is telling them to agree with God that they had sinned and then they would be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness. Believers don't need to be cleansed from all unrighteousness. That happens at salvation. We live in verse 7.

3. When John clearly addresses believers in the next chapter, he tells them their sins ARE forgiven.

1 John 2:12

I write to you, little children, because your sins **are** forgiven you for His name's sake.

4. **Jesus' offering for sins was the final one. Nothing WE do can obtain forgiveness. It is ONLY by His blood sacrifice that we are forgiven.**

Hebrews 10:16-18

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," ¹⁷ then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." ¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these, **there is no longer an offering for sin.**

5. **John wrote 1 John sometime around 90 A.D. AFTER Paul, the apostle, had died. Paul NEVER EVER ONCE TOLD THE BELIEVERS TO CONFESS THEIR SINS IN ORDER TO BE FORGIVEN. If confession of sin is required for forgiveness, then SURELY Paul would have explained this to them. On the contrary, he spoke of their forgiveness in the PAST TENSE.**

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses.**

6. **In order to be able to confess sins, we would need to have a consciousness of sins, and Hebrews 10 teaches that we no longer have this due to the perfection of Christ's sacrifice.**

Hebrews 10:1-3

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? ³ **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.**

7. **Our righteousness is a gift to us by FAITH, NOT CONFESSION. If we have to confess our sins now that we are already the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus IN ORDER to be made righteous or cleansed of unrighteousness (2 Cor. 5:21), then it would make no sense. We are cleansed from unrighteousness at salvation.**

8. **1 John 1:9 must, as must all Scripture, be taken in context of the entire New Testament. We must ask ourselves, how does 1 John 1:9 line up with the rest of Scripture, NOT, how can we make the rest of Scripture line up with 1 John 1:9.**

O. If you "die in sin" you will go to hell. FALSE!

1. ***Our sins are continuously forgiven. There is no space in between when we sin and when we are forgiven. So if we die when sinning, we will be forgiven before we expire.***
- P. If you die in sin you will go to purgatory. FALSE!**
1. ***The scriptures do not mention a second chance scenario.***
 2. ***The general fate of man is to die once, then face judgment.***
Hebrews 9:27-28
And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.
- Q. When you sin you open the door for Satan. FALSE.**
1. ***Again, when you sin, you are forgiven. There is no time in-between when you sin and when you are forgiven. Satan cannot, therefore, enter the situation to harm you due to you "opening a door". However:***
 - a. He will try to make you think you are NOT forgiven.
 - b. He will try to make you feel your sin has separated you from God.
 - c. He might even try to tell you, "Well, you've opened the door for me to get to work." Keep in mind, he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - d. Do not accept these lies. You are forgiven. You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. His sacrifice was good enough.
- R. Suicide is a one-way ticket to hell. FALSE!**
1. ***This assumption is based on breaking one of the Ten Commandments. However, we are NOT UNDER THEM. Even suicide is forgivable.***
 2. ***Of course, this is not something we should do. Suicide hurts so many people. God wants to encourage you if you have feelings like this. He isn't angry with you. He has compassion on you. Let Him help you get through any situation like this.***
- S. We need to confess our sins before entering His presence. FALSE!**
1. ***Entering the Holiest refers to salvation, not a time in prayer that we enter God's presence.***
Hebrews 10:19-23
Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

This entering into the Holy of Holies which the Messiah inaugurated for sinners was by way of a freshly-slain and living road, and this road went "through the veil, that

is to say, His flesh." The inner veil of the tabernacle separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. It barred man's access to God. When the high priest in Israel went into the Holy of Holies, he brushed aside that veil. The writer speaks of Messiah's humanity, as the veil through which the entrance into the heavenly Holy of Holies was made. As the veil in the tabernacle of Israel while it was not rent, barred man's access to God, so Messiah's humanity, before it was rent on the Cross, barred man's access to God. An uncrucified Saviour is no Saviour. When the Messiah died on the Cross, the veil of the temple was rent by the unseen hand of God, showing Israel two things, that the Messiah had now provided the actual entrance for the sinner into the presence of God, and that the symbolic sacrifices were to be discontinued, for the Reality to whom they pointed had come (9:7-10). The unsaved Jew of the first century who had made a profession of Messiah but had not placed a heart faith in Him for salvation, is now exhorted to do the latter, the writer using Jewish terminology and typology in his exhortation. *Wuest's Word Studies*

2. We no longer need to "enter His presence" for His presence has entered us.

a. The Father

Ephesians 4:6

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

1 John 4:4

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

b. The Son

Colossians 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

c. The Holy Spirit

John 14:17

The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

T. What if someone commits the "sin unto death"?

- 1. This topic is debated by commentators. It is generally believed, however, that this sin is rejecting Jesus. Certainly it is not "normal" sin, since all sin, except rejecting Christ, is forgiven at the cross.**

John 3:18

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

IX. Benefits of Living Knowing We Are Forgiven

A. Since our forgiveness is so complete, we do not need to fear any of the above common misconceptions. We can rest in His complete forgiveness.

B. We can live at peace with God. We do not need to fear judgment or God’s wrath.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:10

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

C. Knowing we are forgiven, fills our hearts with love for God instead of fear.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

Luke 7:41-42

“There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.”

And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.”

D. The forgiveness we have received speaks of God’s love for us. When we know how deeply we are loved, we love.

Romans 5:6-9

*For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But **God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

1 John 4:19

We love because He first loved us.

This is GOOD NEWS!!!

We are forgiven forever and completely!