
Jesus Is All About Forgiveness-True or False?

Series: The Passion-True or False?

Luke 23:32-34 (NIV)

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

1. JESUS IS QUALIFIED TO FORGIVE OUR SINS.

False Assumption: Jesus did not have the authority to forgive us of our sins.

The Truth: Jesus has the power to forgive sins because He is God.

Matthew 9:1-8 (NIV)

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ²Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." ³At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

⁴Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶But 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." ⁷And the man got up and went home. ⁸When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

Matthew 28:18 (NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

2. JESUS COMPLETELY TAKES CARE OF OUR SIN.

False Assumption: There are just some sins that even Jesus can't forgive.

The Truth: The forgiveness that Jesus offers is complete and permanent.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Psalm 103:12 (TEV) *As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins from us.*

3. JESUS' FORGIVENESS GIVES US ETERNAL LIFE.

False Assumption: My sins are so bad that I could never make it to heaven.

The Truth: Jesus' forgiveness is so complete that all our sins are covered by his blood.

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

1 John 2:2 (NIV) *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

4. SINCE JESUS HAS FORGIVEN US, WE MUST FORGIVE OTHERS.

False Assumption: I can forgive others if their offense is not too great.

The Truth: I do not have the capacity to forgive without the power Christ gives me.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Colossians 3:13 (NIV) - *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*