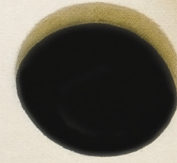


# When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense

## Why The Words "I'm Sorry" Are Highly Overrated

PSALM 32:1-5



**Introduction:** Is it possible to forgive people who never say "I'm sorry?" Today and next week we will explore the arguments for and against unconditional forgiveness.

- I. Three Common Arguments For Demanding Repentance
  - A. "Forgiveness Needs To Be **Earned**"

Luke 15:20-24 <sup>20</sup> And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; <sup>23</sup> and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' And they began to be merry."

Read Luke 15:20-21 <sup>20</sup> And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"

Ephesians 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

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B. "Forgiving an Unrepentant Person Invites Further **Abuse**"

C. "Forgiving an Unrepentant Person Is **Unbiblical**"

Mark 6:12 "And they went out and preached that men should repent."

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Acts 2:37-38 "<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Luke 17:3-4 "<sup>3</sup> Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

1. The meaning of "repentance"

Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of direction.

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2. Repentance is necessary for...
  - a. **Receiving** God's forgiveness

1 John 1:8-9 <sup>8</sup>"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- b. **Reconciliation** with another person
- c. **Restoration** to a position
- d. **Relief** from guilt

Psalm 32:3-4 <sup>3</sup>"When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer."

Psalm 32:5 "I acknowledge my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I didst not hide; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;' and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin."

Conclusion