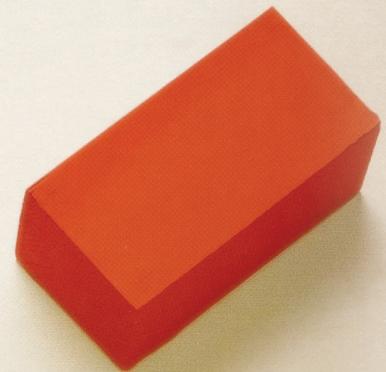


When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense



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 ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.' ²² 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;²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ 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 ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ 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 "³⁷ 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?' ³⁸ 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 "³ Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ 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 “⁸If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If 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 “³When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For 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