

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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FORGIVENESS

John Edwards

The Bible is a book about forgiveness.

GOD FORGIVES. The Lord passed by before Moses and proclaimed, *“The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression...”* (Ex. 34:6-7). It is written in 2 Chronicles 7:14, *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* God is *“ready to forgive”* (Ps. 86:5). Psalm 130:4 says, *“But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.”* 1 John 1:9 teaches, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

CHRIST FORGIVES. Jesus said to a man sick of the palsy, *“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Mt. 9:2). Jesus said to the sinful woman at Simon’s house, *“Thy sins are forgiven”* (Lk. 7:48). One of the last sayings of Jesus on the cross was, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (Lk. 23:34). Paul

pointed out, *“...through his blood,”* we have *“the forgiveness of sins”* (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14). Colossians 3:13 states, *“...Christ forgave you...”*

WE MUST FORGIVE. We are taught, *“Forgiving one another”* (Eph. 4:32); *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another”* (Col. 3:13). We must forgive:

To be God-like. We are to be like God (Mt. 5:48; Lk. 6:36). Since God forgives, and we are to be like God, then we should be forgiving.

To be Christ-like. We are to be like Christ (1 Pet. 2:21). Since Christ is forgiving, and we are to be like Christ, then we should forgive.

To be forgiven. The Bible teaches that we must forgive to be forgiven. Jesus taught, *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”* (Mt. 6:14-15).

As forgiven. We are to forgive as we are forgiven. Ephesians 4:32, *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven*

you.” Colossians 3:13, *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*

Indefinitely. When Peter asked the Lord, *“how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?”*, the Lord answered, *“I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven”* (Mt. 18:21-22). Luke 17:3-4, *“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.”*

Wouldn’t it be a shame to not be forgiven by God because we refused to forgive someone? Let’s seek the forgiveness of those we have wronged, and forgive those who have wronged us.

SIN HURTS

John Edwards

John revealed, *“Whosoever commits sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him*

is no sin" (1 Jn. 3:4-5). Every sin we commit hurts someone. We need to know sin hurts!

SIN HURTS GOD. Every sin is against God. Joseph resisted the advances of Potiphar's wife saying, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9). When "the wickedness of man was great in the earth", as reported in Genesis 6, the Bible says "...it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart" (vv. 5-6). The sin of mankind deeply troubled God's heart. Our sin is ungrateful and insulting to God. We bite the hand of the One who feeds us when we sin (Is. 1:2-3)!

SIN HURTS CHRIST. Christ suffered for sins (1 Pet. 2:21, 24; 3:18). He was offered to bear the sins of many (Heb. 9:28). He was "...wounded for our transgressions...bruised for our iniquities...oppressed, and...afflicted" (Is. 53:5, 7). Matthew 27:26 shows He was "scourged". Vine says, "Under the Roman method of 'scourging,' the person was stripped and tied in a bending posture to a pillar, or stretched on a frame. The

'scourge' was made of leather thongs, weighted with sharp pieces of bone or lead, which tore the flesh of both the back and the breast (cp. *Psa 22:17*). Eusebius (Chron.) records his having witnessed the suffering of martyrs who died under this treatment." Jesus was "crucified" (Mt. 27:35). Someone who was crucified suffered the maximum amount of pain! Can we even understand how much our sins hurt Christ?

SIN HURTS OTHERS. There are those who endure tremendous physical and emotional pain because of the sins of others. The account of Achan, in Joshua 7, shows that sin hurts others. Achan's sin did not just affect him — it affected many others also. The Israelites were defeated on the battlefield (v. 4), 36 men were killed (v. 5), and Achan's sons and daughters were stoned with stones and burned with fire (vv. 24-25). Words can hurt. A deceitful tongue is "like a sharp razor" (Ps. 52:2). Ever been cut by a razor? What we say can hurt others severely. We may not fully understand the wounds we inflict upon others when we trespass against them.

SIN HURTS OURSELVES. We ultimately hurt ourselves when we sin. "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins" (Prov. 5:22). "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul" (Prov. 6:32). "But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul..." (Prov. 8:36). "...he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh" (Prov. 11:17). "...he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death" (Prov. 11:19). Here's how God described Israel as a "sinful nation": "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Is. 1:6). Paul said, "...he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (1 Cor. 6:18). We may suffer emotionally, physically and even eternally because of our sins. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus is the Great Physician. Let's bring our sins to Him so we can be mended and whole!

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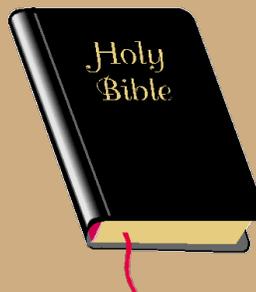
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We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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