

THE GOD WHO FORGIVES

Sin and Death

One way or another we all experience the reality of sin and suffering. This is because "all have sinned." Sin is when you, or someone else, does something that goes against God's glorious nature and commandments.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

We sin when we don't love God as we ought and when we don't love one another as we ought. The simple truth is that not one person on earth is without sin, for not one of us is perfect like God is. Because all sin, all will eventually die. Death is the payment for the sin that we commit.

For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)

Our sin might bring about our death suddenly while we are young, or perhaps slowly at a good old age. There is no way for a person who sinned to escape death. It is when we experience the death of a loved one that we start to comprehend the seriousness of the sins of mankind, including our our sinfulness. Sin always brings death. For every person who sinned, death will have to be paid.

Guilt and Forgiveness

The reason why every person who sins will have to die one day, is because sin makes us guilty before God. Every sinful thought, every sinful action, every sinful word makes us guilty before God. God is holy and just, and is too pure to be able to look at our sin and do nothing about it.

You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, (Habakkuk 1:13)

Every time we sin, we should feel guilty. Guilt is God's way of reminding us that we have sinned and need forgiveness. There is no way to get rid of guilt, except through forgiveness from those whom we have sinned

against. That is why God tells us to confess our sins to one another and also to repent of our sins to God. To repent means to feel very bad about your sin, to agree with the judgement that you deserve, to ask for mercy, and then to stop your sin and do what is righteous instead.

In the Bible God tells us, that if we repent and confess our sins to Him, then He will always forgive our sins. Repeatedly throughout the Bible, God reminds us that although He is perfect, holy, just, and righteous, that He is also merciful, gracious, patient with us, and full of love.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
(Romans 6:23)

When God forgives our sins, He removes our guilt and shows us compassion instead. As a gift to sinners who repent, God gives eternal life.

It doesn't matter how good you think you are, or how bad you are, you are a sinner who needs God's forgiveness. You receive His forgiveness when you acknowledge that you have sinned, when you know that you deserve death, and when you plead with God for mercy instead.

Then, you can rejoice in the blessing of forgiveness, you can continue this life with God's help, and you can tell others of how gracious the Lord has been to you!

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. (Psalm 51:12-13)

God has given you an opportunity to learn about sin and death, about guilt and forgiveness. He has said much more about it in the Bible, which is His Word to mankind. God has saved others from their sins too, and they are called His Church. Read the Bible to know God better, and join with His Church to worship Him with other forgiven sinners.