

July 25

What Does God Say About Forgiveness?



What makes Christianity different
from all the world religions?

(What is the “heart” of Christianity?) John 20:21-23

Other religions may have a god who shows mercy at times,
but the very heart of God is forgiveness of ALL sin

- † *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.* John 3:17
- † *Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases* Psalm 103:2-3
- † *I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me.* Jeremiah 33:8
- † *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* I John 1:9

And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Matthew 12:31 (We will talk more about this truth later...)



We forgive because we are forgiven
Forgiveness = Forgiven-ness

Forgiveness is a choice
(Forgiveness is not an option)

Love = forgiveness

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in
this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
Romans 5:8

Does God ignore your sin?

Jesus ... asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

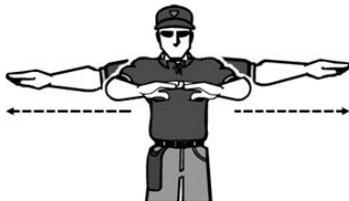
"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared.

"Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:10-11

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21

A baseball analogy:

God declares you "safe" – you ARE safe



When an umpire calls a player safe, the player IS safe.

The Umpire's word makes the player safe.

Only if the player then chooses to leave the safety of the base, is the player in danger of being tagged out.

Notice, the Umpire signaling "safe" makes a cross...

The ball is what creates a danger for the player (being tagged without the ball means nothing). Picture Christ as the one who holds the ball. His perfectness shows our sin. He could "tag you" with the ball. Instead, Jesus keeps the ball from you and stands there as the Father (the Umpire) declares "SAFE!"

How can you be SURE of your forgiveness?

It is God's work, not yours. And He is faithful to His Word.

Ephesians 2:8-10; Ephesians 1

Nothing you have done has made God love you less

³⁷ *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Matthew 23:37*

Nothing in your life is too much that God can't forgive.

Now share His forgiveness with others.