

Guilt,
Forgiveness,
and God

Exodus 34:6



1

Guilt

2 Types of Guilt:

1. Objective Guilt – based on the law
 - Always right or true
2. Subjective Guilt – based on feeling
 - Often false guilt

2

Conscience

- The place in our psyche that condemns or justifies
- Discerns between right and wrong

3

Conscience

•Romans 2:15 - “They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.”

4

Conscience

•Romans 13:5 - “Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.”

5

Conscience

•1 Samuel 24:5 - “Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.”

6

Conscience

- Acts 24:16 – “So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”

7

Conscience

- Not always a good guide to what is right and wrong
- Our conscience can be seared or cauterized
 - To seal something up, to not allow the fluid to come out.
 - In regard to conscience, to not allow the conscience to reveal right and wrong

8

Conscience

- 1 Tim 4:2 - “Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”

9

Conscience

•1 Cor 4:4 - "My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord that judges me."

10

Conscience

•2 Cor 7:8-13 – Worldly sorrow vs. Godly sorrow

- Godly sorrow – constructive sorrow that brings constructive change
- Leads to repentance and forgiveness

11

Conscience

•2 Cor 7:8-13

12

Forgiveness

•Forgiveness from God requires two conditions:

1. Repentance
2. Willingness to forgive others

13

Forgiveness

Repentance:

•1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

14

Forgiveness

Repentance:

- Example of David when confronted about his sin by the prophet Nathan
- 2 Samuel 12:13 – “Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’ Nathan replied, ‘The LORD has taken away your sin.’”

15

Forgiveness

Repentance:

- The Message of John the Baptist and Jesus – “repent for the kingdom of God is near”
- See Matt 3:2, 4:17

16

Forgiveness

Repentance:

- Admits to our sin
- Determines to not repeat that sin
- A sincere attempt to do His will and follow His ways as best we can – with our heart, soul, and mind.

17

Forgiveness

Repentance:

- Always leads to forgiveness from God

18

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is God's nature!

See Exodus 34:1-6a

19

Forgiveness

Psalm 103:12 – “As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

20

Forgiveness

- Forgiveness is by faith, not by works
- There is nothing we can do to gain any divine favor from God

21

Forgiveness

- Willingness to Forgive
- Matt 6:14-15 – “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

22

Forgiveness

- Willingness to Forgive
- Parable of the unmerciful servant
- Matt 18:21-35

23

Forgiveness

- Willingness to Forgive
- Because the character of God is to forgive, He expects His disciples to reflect His character by forgiving others.

24

Forgiveness

- We do not always want to forgive or feel like forgiving
- Forgiveness begins with a choice to forgive
- We often need God's Spirit to help us forgive

25

Forgiveness

- When we forgive, we walk together with the forgiving God

- The first person to benefit from forgiving is the one who does it

26

Forgiveness

“The ultimate solution to guilt and guilt feelings is to admit our pain, suffering, failures, and guilt; to confess sin to Christ and at times to other human beings; to pray for forgiveness and a sincere desire to repent and change behavior;

27

Forgiveness

and then to believe with divine help that we are forgiven and accepted by the God of the universe. It is he who in turn helps us to accept, love, and forgive both ourselves and others.”
