

God's Forgiveness

How would you complete the following statement?

When a person becomes a Christian...

- only those sins that he confesses are forgiven.
- all of his sins in the past are forgiven, but not those in the future.
- he becomes perfect and unable to ever sin again.
- all of his past, present, and future sins are forgiven.

Not sure? Read on to discover the answer to this statement and **God's Solution** to help Christians overcome sin!

Dealing with Sin

1. What is Sin?

The Greek word for **sin** means "**missing the mark.**" It describes the distance between where an arrow lands and the *bull's eye* of the intended target.

Notice how it is used in this Bible verse.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23, ESV



❖ **Underline** the result of sin.

Sin is man's failure to live up to God's perfect standard. Everyone has broken at least one of the 10 Commandments—either through their **actions** or **thoughts**.

"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."
James 4:17, ESV

❖ **Frame one** word that describes knowing the right thing to do and **not** doing it.

Even our failure to do what is right is **sin**! So that means no one is perfect.

Ezekiel 18:20 says, "*The person who sins will die.*"

Sin brings God's judgment of death on all who are guilty of disobeying God's laws.

What would you expect?

SIN will not come to you, saying, **"I am sin."** It would do little harm if it did.

SIN always seems "good, and pleasant, and desirable," at the time of commission.

~ J. C. Ryle

2. Who Sins?

❖ **Circle** the word in **Romans 3:23** (above) that describes **whom** God considers a sinner.

*"If we **claim to be without sin,**
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we **claim we have not sinned,**
we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us."*

1 John 1:8, 10, NIV

❖ **Underline** the description of **Christians** who claim they are "*without sin.*"

❖ **Circle** the description of **Christians** who claim they "*have not sinned.*"



10 Commandments

1. Thou shalt have no other God before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5

SIN is not

- just breaking God's **laws**;
- it is breaking His **heart**.

~ Adrian Rogers

❓ *What does **Isaiah 59:2** say sin does to our relationship with God?*

*"All sin promises to
Serve & Please
but only desires to
Enslave & Dominate."*

~ Ed Cole

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*"All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned, every one, to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity [sin] of us all."* Isaiah 53:6, NKJV

❖ **Circle** the animal mentioned in this verse.



It is common for **sheep** to wander away from their shepherd. They easily get into danger and are helpless to defend themselves against other animals. God compares **people** to sheep since we often go our own way instead of following Him.

❖ **Underline** what was "laid" on Jesus.



Because **all** of us have sinned, **all** of us need a Savior. Like sheep, we are unable to save ourselves. That is why Jesus took the punishment for our sin.

"RELIGIONS are man's search for God;
the **GOSPEL** is God's search for man.
There are **many RELIGIONS**, but **one GOSPEL.**" ~ E. Stanley Jones



3. What is God's Solution for Sin?

In **Colossians 2:13-14** (below), the apostle Paul uses an illustration from the *legal profession*. During his time, convicted criminals were issued a "**written code**" which listed all the *crimes* they had committed, as well as their *penalty* sentenced by the court.

After fulfilling their sentence, the court took the "**written code**" and stamped over it the Greek word "*tetelestai*," which means *Paid in Full*. This was the *exact word* Christ used in **John 19:30** (below) when He said, "**It is finished**," just before He died on the cross.

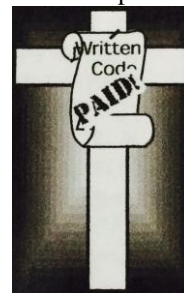
*"...God made you alive with Christ.
He forgave us all our sins,
having canceled the **written code**, with its regulations,
that was against us and that stood opposed to us;
He took it away, nailing it to the cross."* Colossians 2:13-14, NIV

❖ **Circle** how many of our "sins" God forgave.

❖ **Underline** what God did with the "**written code**" that contained a list of our sins and the penalty of death.

"Nailing it to the cross" means Jesus paid for our sins by dying on the cross in our place.

*"When He had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'
With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."* John 19:30, NIV



❖ **Circle** the phrase "**It is finished.**"

❖ **Write "Paid in Full"** above "**It is finished.**"

*"God made Him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."* 2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV

❖ **Underline why** God made Jesus "to be sin for us."

The death of Jesus Christ satisfied 2 attributes of God.

- It satisfied His **Holiness** which required that sin be punished.
- It satisfied His **Love** which desired man's salvation.



*Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God is able to demonstrate
His Love for man while maintaining His Holiness.*

*"For there is not a just man
on earth who **does good**
and **does not sin.**"*
Ecclesiastes 7:20, NKJV

"We must not forget that
it wasn't the Jews that put
Him on the cross, and it
wasn't the Romans. It was
my sins, it was your sins,
the sins of this world."

~ Franklin Graham



"God grades
on the **Cross**
NOT on the **curve.**"

~ Adrian Rogers

Legalism says
God will love us IF we change.

The **Gospel** says
*God will change us BECAUSE
He loves us.*

~ Tullian Tchividjian

"The **CROSS** is the greatest
example of humility and
devotion in the universe.

Jesus put your needs
ahead of His own.
He considered
You more valuable
than Himself."

~ Chip Ingram



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4. What Should We Do When We Sin?

1 John 1:9 (below) has been called “**The Christian’s Bar of Soap**” because it contains the **KEY** to dealing with sin in our lives.

“If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9, KJV

❖ **Circle** what to do whenever we sin.



The word “**confess**” comes from a *Greek* word which means **to agree**. To **confess** is **to agree with God** that we have sinned.

❖ **Underline two** things God will do when we confess our sins.



Notice that this is a **conditional statement**: “*if we confess our sins,*” then God will “*forgive*” and “*cleanse*” us.

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13, NKJV

❖ **Frame** what we receive if we confess and forsake sin.

When we are truly sorry, we will be willing to forsake *or stop doing* that sin.

“**REPENTANCE** is as much a mark of a Christian, as **FAITH** is. A very little sin, as the **world** calls it, is a very great sin to a **true Christian**.”
~ Charles Spurgeon

Good News!

“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.... Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Psalm 51:2, 7, NKJV

❖ **Circle what** David asked God to wash his sins “*whiter than.*”



Snow is the result of ice crystalizing around tiny particles of dust or pollen in the sky. God washes our sins “*whiter than snow*” because snow contains a speck of **dirt**.

“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions [sins] from us.” Psalm 103:12, NKJV

❖ **Underline** the distance God removes our sins from us.

How far is the east from the west? *An infinite distance!*

↔ No matter how far east you travel, you can still go one more step.

↔ There is a North Pole and South Pole, *but there cannot be an east or west pole!*

Just as the east and west are an immeasurable distance apart, so God completely separates us from our sin!



APPLICATION

1. Pray and ask God to reveal any sins you have not confessed to Him.
2. Confess those sins to God. Don’t make excuses for your sins.
3. Turn away from those sins. Ask God for help to not commit them again.
4. Claim God’s two promises in **1 John 1:9** for those who confess their sins.
5. Thank God for His forgiveness.

“God has promised
FORGIVENESS
to your
REPENTANCE,
but He has not promised
TOMORROW
to your procrastination.”
~ Augustine



BIBLE Example

King David committed adultery with Bathsheba, but later confessed his sin to God.

In **Psalm 51**, David asks God to
♦ show mercy (v.1)
♦ cleanse him from sin (v.2)
♦ create a clean heart in him (v.10)

Because David repented and forsook his sins, that is one of the reasons God called David a “**man after My own heart**” in Acts 13:22.

“**Our sins have been put away. To use the language of the Scriptures... they are**

- ✓ completely removed,
- ✓ put behind God’s back,
- ✓ blotted out,
- ✓ remembered no more, and
- ✓ hurled into the depths of the sea.”

~ Jerry Bridges

“**PRAYER** will make a man cease from **SIN**, or **SIN** will entice a man to cease from **PRAYER**.”

~ John Bunyan

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Questions and Answers

Q Are all my sins forgiven by God or just the past ones?

A: Christ died for *all* our sins: *Past, Present, and Future.*

“And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices [gifts to God], which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God.” Hebrews 10:11-12, ESV

- ❖ **Circle** how often a “priest” would offer the same sacrifice.
 - ◆ In the Old Testament, priests **continually** offered sacrifices because people had sinned.
 - ◆ The priests **stood** because their work was **never finished**.
- ❖ **Underline** how many times “Christ” offered a sacrifice for sins.
 - ◆ Christ’s death on the cross was the perfect sacrifice for sin, so it only happened **once**.
 - ◆ Because His work **was complete**, Christ now **sits** beside God in heaven.

Q What about making restitution (or repayment)?

A: If your sin hurt others, ask their forgiveness. Make restitution if necessary.

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24, ESV



- ❖ **Underline** the “first” thing we should do when we have offended or wronged someone.
- ❖ **Circle** what we can do **after** we have been reconciled.

Q Why should I confess sins to God? He already forgave them.

A: *Confession* allows us to experience the forgiveness that is already ours in Christ. *Sin* breaks our *fellowship* with God, not our *relationship* with Him.

- Our *relationship* with God as His children is based on *His unconditional love* for us.
- Our *fellowship* with God depends on our keeping an intimate walk with Him.

Psalm 32 describes the conviction David felt about his unconfessed sin.

“For day and night Your hand was heavy on me [David]; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity [sin]. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.’ and You forgave the guilt of my sin.” Psalm 32:4-5, NIV

- ❖ **Underline** what God did when David confessed his sin.
 - ◆ SIN had **destroyed** David’s intimacy with God, but **CONFESSION restored** it!

Q How often should I confess my sins?

A: As mentioned earlier, *1 John 1:9* is the “*Christian’s Bar of Soap*.”

- Just as you wash yourself with real soap as often as necessary, so you should confess sin *as soon as God convicts you of it*.
- Any delay allows *Satan* the opportunity to gain a “*foothold*” in your life.



God’s Math: 1 Cross
+ 3 Nails
4 Given

“God takes our sins – the **past, present, and future**, and dumps them in the sea and puts up a sign that says **NO FISHING ALLOWED.**”



~Corrie ten Boom

“As far as I know, this is the only time God tells you to slip out of church early.

Apparently, He’d **rather** have you give your *olive branch* than your *tithe*.



If you are worshiping and remember that your mom is hacked-off at you for forgetting her birthday, then get off the pew and find a phone.

Maybe she’ll forgive you; maybe she won’t. But at least you can return to your pew with a **clean conscience.**”

~ Max Lucado

“Confess sin instantly.”

~ F. B. Meyer

A Prayer

Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross to pay for all our sins. Help us confess and turn from sins so they will not hinder fellowship with You. Amen.

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