

GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD

AG

Series 1 Session 5

Understanding God's Love and Forgiveness

Why is it important to experience God's love and forgiveness?



How would a weak fellowship with God affect your life?



When we receive Jesus into our life, we become a child of God. This is a permanent and secure **relationship**. God doesn't abandon His children, but our sin messes up our daily **fellowship** with Him.

Break into groups and consider these differences between your relationship and fellowship with God:

Relationship with God

Fellowship with God

John 1:12 Began when you received Christ

1 Peter 1:3-4 Everlasting

John 10:27-28 Maintained by God

Hebrews 13:5 Never changes

Col. 2:6 Began when you received Christ

Ps. 32:3-5 Fellowship can be hindered

1 John 1:9 Maintained in part by us

Ps. 66:18 Changes when we sin

How can we experience continuous fellowship with God?

“All of us have sinned, therefore every one of us needs to experience God's forgiveness for our attitudes and actions.”

Sin is a barrier for both Christians and non-Christians. Sin keeps us all from experiencing God's love. But many people are confused about what sin is and what it's not. What is sin? It's more than cheating, lying, immoral behaviour, etc. These actions are only the results of an attitude of sin. Here's a simple definition of what sin is: Choosing to go our own way instead of God's way- both in actions and in attitudes.

What are the results of sin?

Read Romans 3:23 For non-Christians, sin completely blocks a **relationship** with God.

What about non-Christians that lead good moral lives? Are they separated from God or not?



Read 1 John 1:6-8 For Christians, sin completely interrupts **fellowship** with God.



The Basis for Forgiveness

Christ's death is the basis for forgiveness to bring us into a proper relationship with God. (1 Peter 3:18)

Christ's death is also the basis for forgiveness in our daily fellowship with God. (Col. 2:13-14)

In order to restore our fellowship with God we need to continually confess our sins to Him. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of the sins in our life (John 16:8) and confess them.

Read 1 John 1:9

In this context "confession" means agreeing with God about your sin and also includes sincere repentance (making a decision to turn away from your sin). This results in immediate and guaranteed forgiveness from God.

What did God do with your sin?

When Christ died how many of your sins were in the future?

How many of your sins did Christ die for?

What difference will it make in your daily life to know you are totally forgiven?



Colossians 2:13-14

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled 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.

In the day when this was written, "written code" or "list of sins" (some translations) meant a detailed record nailed to a prisoner's cell door. It listed every crime for which the prisoner had been convicted. When the sentence was served or the fine paid, the authorities removed the list and wrote "paid in full" over it. The prisoner used this as proof that he could never be tried for those crimes again. The Christian who trusts Christ's payment for sin can never be tried again. You have full pardon from God.

"Sin interrupts our fellowship with God. Keeping short accounts with God through regular confession and repentance enables us to continually experience His love and forgiveness."

Take a few minutes and, without showing others, ask God to make you aware of anything wrong between you and Him. Write down the specific things He shows you. Give God time to show you everything in your life that's not right with Him. When you finish your list, write over it the promise of 1 Jn 1:9. Thank God for His forgiveness and destroy the list. After you've confessed your known sins any guilt which remains comes from the devil not from God, and you can reject it.
[Psalm 103:12]