

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Is The Christian Obligated to Forgive the Sinner Who Will Not Repent?

The above question has often been asked this scribe. Every accountable being at times sins against others; some sin publicly even against the church. Clearly, those who repent and ask for forgiveness are to be fully forgiven. But not everyone repents and asks for forgiveness. Does God require us to forgive the impenitent?

What saith the Scriptures? One's opinion and sentiment often differs from Holy Writ. Does one's own forgiveness depend upon his forgiving the impenitent? "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

God cannot forgive one who does not repent. He refuses to hear one who refuses to forsake and confess his sin (Psalm 66:18; Ezekiel 33:11); if the sinner will confess and turn from his sin, God will hear (1 Kings 8:35-36; Luke 15:17-24; Acts 2:38). When was Ananias forgiven (Acts 8:22-24)? The Ephesians (Revelations 2:5)?

Can the Christian do what God cannot do? In individual, personal matters between you and another (in which you strive to resolve the difference), if the brother will not repent, "let him be unto thee as the Gentile and the publican" (Matthew 18:15-17).

Without possible dispute are Christ's words, "Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sin against thee seven times in the day and seven times turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4). When were the Corinthians commanded to forgive and comfort the man in adultery? The necessary implication is that the man had repented between the command to withdraw from him and the time when they were to forgive him (1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 5-11).

But some may object thus: Does this not demonstrate a lack of love for our brother, or is it not to carry a grudge? Our Father loves the impenitent supremely, certainly not carrying a grudge; yet, He refuses to forgive the rebellious one, who will not repent. Did not Jesus pray (as did Stephen) for His murderers to be forgiven? For them to have been forgiven while still impenitent would mean that man universally can be saved, while refusing to repent. The penitent, obedient ones on Pentecost of Acts 2:37-41 received answer to Christ's prayers; only then were they forgiven.

Does this mean that one can have a mean, unforgiving spirit? Absolutely not! The faithful child of God has the spirit of forgiveness, anxious for one who has offended him to repent (Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3-4). Contrast the self-righteous elder brother (Luke 15:25ff). What is real forgiveness? "...and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 10:17); "...love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). How sad to appear in judgment not having forgiven a penitent child of God who injures us! How can God show us mercy (Matthew 6:14-15)?

And, how sad, on the other hand, for the erring child of God to sin publicly, hurting the name of the Lord and His body and never to acknowledge the sin, refusing to repent of and confess it

(James 5:16)! How sad for an individual to sin against a brother and to expect to go to heaven, his never having corrected the sin (Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:3-4).

—Curtis A. Cates

Prayer Request

Maria Anaya has been at the ER a few times recently due to elevated blood sugar levels. Her blood sugar was at 700 when first taken to the ER. Maria was treated at that time and allowed to go home. She had another spell and was back at the ER. Maria has been put on insulin and a diet to keep her blood sugar under control.

Joshua Weakland had to go to an Emergency Care Center early last Monday morning due to flu-like symptoms. He began not feeling well last Sunday night and ended up getting really bad sick. Keep Josh in your prayers.

Charles Wood went to the ER on March 9th with the appearance of a heart attack, but the tests came back okay. However, he was scheduled to undergo more testing. Keep Charles in your prayers.

Ora McAfee fell again at her home and messed up her hip. She was taken to Medical Center but was transferred back to Plano, TX where her hip surgery was done to undergo corrective surgery. Keep Ora in your prayers.

David Ryan went to Dallas last Monday to see a specialist concerning the back pain that he has. David is in need of prayers.

Concerns Update

Mary Brown is still having pain. Her doctor wants her to walk every hour. Keep Mary in your prayers that her pain goes away.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Philip Garza; Hattie Gilmore; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Lon Howard; Ora McAfee; Patsy Mitchell; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Daniel Reyes; Lisa Salas; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ...

Who said, "He must become greater; I must become less."

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

When Solomon was born, God named him Jedidiah.

Events

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

Wednesday, March 30th is our "**Fifth Wednesday Singing Service**".

Thoughts to Remember...

Start your day by asking God to take control.

Why Become a Member of the Church of Christ?

Why should a person become a member of the church of Christ? May I offer some reasons for your consideration? Please read the Scriptures found with each one.

- It was founded by the Scriptural builder—Christ (Matthew 16:18)
- It was founded on the Scriptural foundation— the teachings of Christ (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11)
- It was founded at the Scriptural place—Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-3; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 2).
- It was founded at a Scriptural time—the first Pentecost following the resurrection (Acts 2, “church” is described as an established organization for the first time).
- It has a Scriptural name (Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16).
- It has Scriptural organization (Philippians 1:1).
- It has the bible as its only creed (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 3 Peter 1:3).
- It is undenominational (John 17:20-21).
- It administers Scriptural baptism (immersion) (Matthew 28:18-19; Acts *:36, 38; John 3:23; Romans 6:4).
- It gives Scriptural answers to the question, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16).
- Its observation of the Lord’s Supper is Scriptural (1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Acts 20:7; 2:42).
- It has Scriptural music in worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
- Salvation is in Christ’s church (Acts 20:28; 2:47; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).

Friend, why not obey the Gospel of Christ today? Sin condemns one’s soul eternally, but God has given His Son, making it possible for sin to be removed.

We can be members of the same church today that Christ said He would build (Matthew 16:18) - the one found in the Bible. By doing what they did, we can become what they became—just Christians.

—Selected

March 20, 2022

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Allen Weakland
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
Don Easlon
Jeff Wesson
Scot Straw

P.M.

Allen Weakland
Oliver Hernandez
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
Jackie Perkins
Craig Wesson
Jacob Carson

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading:

Larry May
Steven Easlon
John Wood
Gary Loving

Bill Ryan
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 —*Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Pulpit:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332—*Table:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 —*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* John Wood 413-7444 — *Collections:* Bill Ryan 352-4871

Sunday AM

“Better Covenant”
(Hebrews 8:7-13)

Sunday PM

“Breakdown of Morals Within Society” (Part 1)
(Judges 19:1)

Our Records

Bible Class... 56

Morning Worship...61

Evening Worship ...59

Wednesday...58

Contribution....\$5,030.90