

Love and Forgiveness: The Marks of Christianity

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I. Christianity is the only religion that truly proclaims pure *'Love and Forgiveness'*

A. Love

[Jer 31:3](#) ...I have loved thee with an everlasting love...

[Joh 3:16](#) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...

[Joh 15:13](#) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

[Rom 8:38](#) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

[Rom 8:39](#) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Mat 22:37](#) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

[Mat 22:39](#) And...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

[Luk 10:29](#) But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

[2Co 5:14](#) For the love of Christ constraineth us...

[Joh 13:35](#) By this shall all *men* know...ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

[2Th 3:5](#) And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God...

B. Forgiveness

[Luk 23:34](#) Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...

[Rom 4:7](#) *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Rom 4:8 Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Eph 1:7 In whom...the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Eph 4:32 ...forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

II. Christianity is: *'The Religion of Understood Forgiveness'*

Heb 8:10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Heb 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

III. God's *'love and forgiveness'* is the *'Forgive and Forget'* kind of love and forgiveness

Isa 43:25 I, *even I, am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Jer 50:20 ...the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and *there shall be* none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

Mic 7:19 ...thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

IV. God's expectations of us regarding *'love and forgiveness'*

Mar 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mar 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Mat 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Mat 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Mat 18:24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

V. Jesus' lessons concerning the proper attitude of a sinner toward a (real??) sinner

Luk 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

Luk 7:38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

Luk 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Luk 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Luk 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Luk 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Luk 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most....

Luk 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Luk 7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

Luk 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Joh 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

Joh 8:4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Joh 8:5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

Joh 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*.

Joh 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

Joh 8:8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

Joh 8:9 And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Joh 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

Joh 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

VI. Jesus is the friend of sinners—(Even the big ones)

Mat 11:19 The Son of man came...a friend of publicans and sinners...

A. God's attitude toward sinners is to remake marred vessels

Jer 18:2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

Jer 18:3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*.

B. Should we be a friend of sinners? —Even perhaps help remake a marred vessel?

1. Nathan and David were men of God—And friends to each other

2Sa 7:2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

2Sa 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

2. David committed a great sin against God and man

2Sa 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.

2Sa 11:3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

2Sa 11:4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

2Sa 11:5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I *am* with child.

3. God sent Nathan to tell David of his sin

2Sa 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David...

2Sa 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man...

—David would suffer many consequences for his sin

2Sa 12:23 ...I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

2Sa 13:22 ...Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

2Sa 13:29 ...the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded...

2Sa 16:22 ...and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

2Sa 18:33 ...O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Heb 10:30 ...Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

4. God sent Nathan to David again—This time to encourage his friend

2Sa 12:24 ...she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

2Sa 12:25 And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

5. Nathan later encouraged David to get up from his death bed and serve his God

1Ki 1:22 And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

VII. Just a few of the many marred vessels that God has remade

Jacob—Rahab—Naomi—Elijah—Jeremiah—Peter—Saul of Tarsus—Jeff