

LESSON 9

REAL FORGIVENESS

HEBREWS 9:1—10:18



1 What makes it difficult for people to forgive someone who has really hurt them?

2 What makes it so difficult to ask another person for forgiveness?



Read Hebrews 9:1—10:18 and the following notes:

☐ 9:6–8 ☐ 9:12–14 ☐ 9:13, 14 ☐ 9:15 ☐ 9:22 ☐ 9:24–28 ☐ 10:3
☐ 10:4 ☐ 10:5–10 ☐ 10:11, 12 ☐ 10:12 ☐ 10:17

3 What was involved in obtaining forgiveness under the old covenant (9:1–10)?

4 How did Jesus change the way people could be forgiven (9:11–18)?

5 What did Jesus' sacrifice do (10:1–8)?

6 What are the differences between the sacrifices of the old system and the sacrifice of Jesus (10:1–18)?

7 What has Jesus done with our sin (9:14, 15, 22, 28; 10:10, 12, 18)?

Forgiveness costs. In order to forgive, our anger must be set aside, and a sacrifice must be made. But we who are hurt must make the sacrifice, not the one who hurts us. If we forgive a debt, it costs us money. If we forgive a wrong, it costs us the satisfaction of seeing justice served. The cost of sin is high. Under the old covenant, forgiveness cost the life of an innocent animal. Under the new covenant, it cost the life of Jesus. “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins” (9:22). The old covenant made provision to cover sin but not pay for it. The blood of animals could not pay the high price—only Jesus could do that. He paid the full price once and for all, and he can completely take away all your sins. And when you’re forgiven, you’re free!



8 What's the difference between guilt and guilty feelings?

9 How are people trapped by their sin?

10 How can Jesus' forgiveness free us from our sin?



11 The yearly sacrifices under the old covenant were a constant reminder of sin that could not be taken away, leading to guilty feelings (10:3, 4). What does Jesus' final sacrifice remind us of?

12 What assurance do Christians have that their past sins are completely forgiven and taken away?

13 What prevents Christians from feeling forgiven?

14 How does the truth of permanent forgiveness affect the way you worship?

15 Review your recent past, asking God to point out any areas in which you need forgiveness. Confess these sins to God as he reveals them to you.



16 Many have found it helpful, following their confession of sins, to verbally accept God's forgiveness. Saying, "Thank you for forgiving my sins through Jesus" drives home the point that forgiveness does not depend on our efforts or our feelings but on what Christ did on the cross. Write a brief prayer thanking God for his forgiveness.

A What did God want from the Israelites more than sacrifices and offerings (10:4–8)? What implications does this have for our worship today?

B In what sense are we being made holy (10:14)? What is your part in this process?

C What are the unavoidable facts of life (9:27, 28)? How do these facts affect the way you live now?

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