

Forgiven.

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Forgiveness isn't for **perfect** people.
Perfect people don't **need** to be forgiven.

Jesus was/is the ONLY COMPLETELY PERFECT human being who's ever lived.
And He willingly **chose** to give His PERFECT lifeblood as an 'EQUAL exchange' for the sin/wrongs/failures/mistakes/bad choices/evil of the ENTIRE human race.

His forgiveness is for **ALL** of us.

Every imperfect person can be 'made perfect' by receiving His gift of forgiveness; a mind-boggling, over-the-top gesture of unfathomable kindness, and scandalous mercy.

Everyone.

Yes, **even** the person who wronged **you**.

- Even the ones who **repeatedly** continue to make foolish mistakes.
- Even the ones who **know better** yet continue to #\$@% up their relationships.
- Even the ones who are entirely **selfish** to their core and seem incapable of putting anybody's interests above their own.
- Even the ones who reek of **corruption** and tarnish everything they touch.
- Even the one who **lied** to you.
- Even the one who **stole** from you.
- Even the one who **raped** you.
- Even the one who **murdered** you.
- Even the one who promised to love and care for you, but then **abandoned** you...and your children.
- Even the ones who can't get the **bottle** off their lips, the **needle** out of their arm, their mind out of the **gutter**, their butt out of their **own bed**, themselves out of the **wrong bed**.
- Even the ones who have done awful, horrific, life-altering **acts of evil** and unquestionably do **not** deserve to be forgiven.
- Even the one you probably find it MOST difficult to forgive: **Yourself**.

Yes, Jesus chose to DIE so that even all of THEM could be forgiven, too.

We can't go back and change this fact.

History has forever recorded **HIS STORY** of reckless love for wretched people...and that's ALL of us.

The deed is already **done**.

It is **FINISHED**.

He **already** went to the Cross.

He **already** went to the grave.

He **already** rose from the dead.

Both you, and every scumbag who has ever hurt you...or ever will...are **ALREADY FORGIVEN**.

“He canceled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. He erased it all—our sins, our stained soul—He deleted it all and they cannot be retrieved! Everything we once were in Adam has been placed onto His cross and nailed permanently there as a public display of cancellation.” – Colossians 2:14 (TPT)

“Yet through His powerful declaration of acquittal, God freely gives away His righteousness. His gift of love and favor now cascades over us, all because Jesus, the Anointed One, has liberated us from the guilt, punishment, and power of sin!” – Romans 3:24 (TPT)

As soon as you and I (and everyone else) learns this too-good-to-be-true-yet-shockingly-is news...and we simply and finally RECEIVE the gift of ‘perfection-inducing forgiveness’ that Jesus ALREADY gave us...we can start living a whole new life! The gift is sitting there on the table...waiting to be opened.

So, open it.

Enjoy the **peace** and **hope** His forgiveness offers you!

And after you do...humble yourself enough to realize the **BEST** and **HIGHEST** quality of **freedom** your heart will EVER experience will come to **YOU** when you allow the ‘unforgivable ones’ to also be shown the **SAME** forgiveness Jesus died to give to **THEM**, too!

“But instead be kind and affectionate toward one another. Has God graciously forgiven you? Then graciously forgive one another in the depths of Christ’s love.” – Ephesians 4:32 (TPT)

What they did may have been truly vile...undeniably sick. Letting go of the bitterness, hate, and unforgiveness “they so deserve” is **NOT** in **ANY** way condoning their actions or putting your stamp of approval on them. Instead, it is recognizing that the love of an ALL-forgiving God is **SO MUCH MORE powerful** and **incomprehensible** (meaning, we can’t possibly understand it!) than the worst evils committed by any human(s).

Let me say it another way: ***Forgiveness is NOT saying the awful actions of a villainous sleazebag are a ‘small thing’.*** ***On the contrary, forgiveness says that God’s overwhelming, unconditional, never-ending Love is SO magnificently HUMONGOUS it utterly dwarfs every sin that ever tries to raise its puny fist in defiance.*** Like the proverbial ant hurling insults at an elephant...it’s just laughable.

Each one of us can exchange our guilt-ridden, blood-stained, shame-wrapped M.O. for a perfectly **cleansed, restored** and **unstained identity** as a beloved son or daughter of the King!

It has **NOTHING** to do with our worth or our level of ‘deservedness’, and **EVERYTHING** to do with God’s Love being poured out like a waterfall on ‘unlovely’ people--which is beyond our comprehension.

Am I saying that because of Jesus, ALL of humanity is ‘universally saved’ and going to Heaven?

NO. Absolutely not!

Jesus **IS** Savior. Period.

But not all will acknowledge Him as such, and therefore they will **not be able** to receive the salvation He offers them. That's **THEIR choice**, not His.

However, the price of the sin-debt for **EVERY** person has **ALREADY** been paid for in **FULL**.

***“For I will demonstrate My mercy to them and will forgive their evil deeds,
and never remember again their sins.”*** – Hebrews 8:12 (TPT)

***“Farther than from a sunrise to a sunset—that’s how far
You’ve removed our guilt from us.”*** – Psalms 103:12 (TPT)

So, yes, what Jesus did at the Cross and through His resurrection from the dead made it **POSSIBLE** for anyone and everyone to be completely saved. Unfortunately, many people will still choose to reject His kindness, generosity, and love. In that case, even though the opportunity of forgiveness and salvation is **AVAILABLE** for everyone...not everyone will enjoy the benefits of them. Some due to **ignorance**. Some due to **pride**.

DON'T be one of those people.

And don't assume that someone else is one of those people either.

You never know which of the hardest hearts will melt into a puddle when it comes face-to-face with the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God! I for one, would rather choose to be a 'puddle hunter', than write someone off simply due to their crusty outer shell.

Having said ALL OF THAT...when I myself fell the **farthest**, hit the **hardest**, landed square on the **bullseye** of the 'shame & condemnation' target, was at my **lowest**, and was most **painfully** aware of my heart's aching **need** for any hint, scrape, or whisper of hope...that's when the **reality** of Jesus' love and forgiveness **finally** sunk in. I was raised going to church my whole life and had even gone into full-time ministry myself. Yet it wasn't until I came face-to-face with **my own sin and weakness** that my **NEED** of a Savior became more than just an idea or a concept and became very real and tangible to me.

Fortunately, because of what I had been **taught growing up**, and the **influence** of God's **Spirit** in my life, rather than hiding in shame when I faceplanted in sin, I humbled myself before **God's Throne of Mercy and Grace** and found genuine help in the time of my greatest need! (*Hebrews 4:14-16*)

***“God, give me mercy from Your fountain of forgiveness!
I know Your abundant love is enough to wash away my guilt.
Because Your compassion is so great, take away this shameful guilt of sin.
Forgive the full extent of my rebellious ways,
and erase this deep stain on my conscience.”*** – Psalms 51:1-2 (TPT)

***“Then I finally admitted to You all my sins, refusing to hide them any longer.
I said, ‘My life-giving God, I will openly acknowledge my evil actions.’
And You forgave me! All at once the guilt of my sin washed away
and all my pain disappeared!”*** – Psalms 32:5 (TPT)

This is why I now want to see this same message of Jesus' love and forgiveness be clearly expressed and presented to those who come out of prison. Did they do wrong at some point and need to be disciplined?

Yes. (But let's be honest...who hasn't?)

Does the guilt for their crime(s)—whatever it may be—automatically mean they are unlovable, unforgivable, unchangeable from now on, forever and ever?

NO!

***“Let my passion for life be restored, tasting joy in every breakthrough You bring to me.
Hold me close to You with a willing spirit that obeys whatever You say.
Then I can SHOW OTHER GUILTY ONES how loving and merciful You are.
They will find their way back home to You, knowing that You will forgive them.”***

– Psalms 51:12-13 (TPT)

The 'recidivism rate' is *the tendency of a criminal to commit a crime again and get sent back to prison*. Currently, **76%** of **ALL inmates in America** go back to prison **within 5 years** of being released. I believe one of the reasons the national recidivism rate is so crazy high is because the people who **need** to be shown forgiveness the **MOST**, get rejected and despised by society and even their own family, ultimately being shown the **LEAST** amount of forgiveness! Thus, breaking down a person's ability to find the hope and courage needed to rise above the mistakes of their past and the temptations that caused them to crash and burn in the first place. If all they're hearing is that they are disgusting, perverted, losers who will never change, they'll start to believe it. And so, they continue living with behavior which only further confirms to everyone that this is who they are.

At **Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare**, we want to help people who have struggled to make good, healthy choices in the past, learn to see themselves as God sees them: **a son or daughter whom He loves very much!** ALL of the bad decisions of the past **HAVE BEEN forgiven** by Jesus; their sin **completely removed** from them by His blood...and they can be **healed, restored, and made innocent again...IF** they are willing to be humble and surrender to Him.

Does that mean that every resident who comes through Kingdom Boundaries ministry is completely cured and never sins again by the time they are moving out on their own?

Yes. Exactly that...

NO! Don't be ridiculous! We sometimes have **knuckleheads** who don't ever seem to learn anything and continually make **dumb choices**, getting in trouble **constantly**. Sometimes that even means going back to prison. (*It happened yesterday.* 😞)

On the other hand, when someone recognizes the **beauty** and **truth** of God's love for them, **agreeing** this is the key 'missing ingredient' they've been craving all along, and they are **willing to repent** (*change their thinking*) and **accept** the **help** being offered...**THAT'S** when great things start to happen, and we see lives literally change before our eyes!

But it's NOT easy work. There are more people coming out of prison every week and we have such a limited capacity. We truly want to help more people than we can. So, for that reason, we are trying to raise the funds needed to build a bigger, better building which would allow us to **increase our capacity** to almost triple what it is now and offer **more opportunities** to our residents for their growth, health, and restoration.

Would you consider **donating** to **Kingdom Boundaries** to help us in our efforts to change the world one former inmate at a time?

To give to our building project, or to our ministry's day-to-day operating budget...or for more information about who we are and what we do, please visit our website: **www.kingdomboundaries.org**

And please...if anything I said about forgiveness spoke to you, encouraged you, challenged your thinking, or in any way blessed you...SHARE it with others! Hit the "LIKE"! And PLEASE leave me a comment! I'd love to hear YOUR thoughts on all of this!!!

Thank you for taking the time to read this LONG post!