

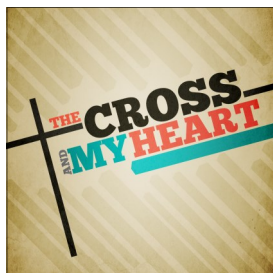
"The Cross Means Forgiveness"

Series: The Cross and My Heart

February 17, 2013

by **Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen**

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter
for his thoughts on various subjects at
pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)



Our understanding of sin and forgiveness is often way too _____.
Forgiving human sin was the greatest challenge facing our _____
God.

"Forgiveness is the very opposite of anything which can be taken for granted.
Nothing is less o_____ than forgiveness." (Brunner)
"...forgiveness to man is the plainest of _____; to God it is the
profoundest of problems." (Simpson)

Forgiveness is such a huge issue to navigate because it's the place where divine
perfection and human rebellion _____
How could God express His _____ love in forgiving sinners without
compromising His holiness and judging sinners without frustrating His love?
(note Isaiah 45:21)

When it comes to the cross and forgiveness, often we have incorrect answers and
we're even asking the wrong questions because we do not fully comprehend:

1. The S_____ of Sin

In the New Testament there are 5 main Greek words used for "sin":

- Most common = "to miss the _____/target"
- "unrighteousness/iniquity"
- "vicious/degenerate _____"
- "trespass" = "stepping over known b_____"
- "lawlessness" = "d_____ or violation of known law"

The Bible tells us that sin is something i_____ (perversion of
character) and also a standard we fail to reach or a _____ we
deliberately cross.

"Sin is not a regrettable lapse from conventional standards; its essence is
h_____ to God, issuing in active rebellion against
Him." (Stott)

Sin is the highest form of treason and _____ (note Romans 8:7).
So all-pervasive is sin...that it is both our "declaration of independence" from God
(note Genesis 3:4), while at the exact same time it is our _____
to be responsible and accountable for our own actions (note Genesis 3:11-13).

(continued on reverse)

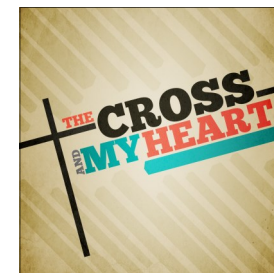
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(continued on reverse)

Because God is holy He cannot _____ sin.
God has both a “personal divine r_____ to evil”, as well as a
“personal vigorous opposition” to sin (Morris).
Our sin and God's holiness, righteousness, and justice _____
_____ of forgiveness being offered or received.

2. The Greatest S_____

Note Romans 3:23; 1 John 4:8b; Exodus 34:7; John 1:1, 14

In order for God to be able to forgive our sins, there needed to be Someone who could legitimately represent h_____...and who could _____ the penalty for all human sin perfectly and completely...Jesus Christ is that Someone (*note Philippians 2:6-8*).

Jesus became the perfect substitute where God could both fully _____
His just wrath against sin and His amazing love for sinful people (*note 1 Peter 2:24*).

- A. Jesus died for us—He went to the cross for _____,
not His own... (*note John 10:11; Romans 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:10a*).
- B. Jesus Died for us to _____ us to God (*note 1 Peter 3:18*) -
Jesus' death on the cross produced the possibility for treasonous,
mutinous human beings being r_____ to a holy and
just God.
- C. Jesus died for _____ (*note 1 Corinthians 15:3a;
Hebrews 9:26 and 10:12; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5-6*)
- D. Jesus died our _____ - death “is an _____
intrusion into God's good world and not a part of His original intention for
humankind.” (Stott) Jesus, who was sinless and had no need to die,
died...the death our sins had _____.

So how is the Cross intersecting my heart?

The cross tells us three things about forgiveness:

- Our sin must be extremely _____.
- God's _____ must be wonderful beyond comprehension— God
had every right to a _____ us to our choices and ultimate
fate. But because of His love, He _____ us in
Christ...
- Christ's salvation must be a _____ (*note Ephesians
2:8-9*) - He purchased it at the highest possible _____ “It is
finished” (*John 19:30*).

Use the connect card to tell us about a commitment you made today, and tell someone
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