

WHAT DOES FORGIVENESS FORGIVE? 2 SAM. 12:7-14

This is one of two of my earliest theological questions. A question that consumed much of my mind and energy for several years....

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified **by faith, we have peace with God through** our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:1 **There is therefore now no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Psalm 103:7 He made known his ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel. **Psalm 103:8** **The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.** **Psalm 103:9** **He will not always chide: Neither will he keep his anger for ever.** **Psalm 103:10** **He hath not dealt with us after our sins; Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.** **Psalm 103:11** **For as the heaven is high above the earth, So great is his mercy toward them that fear him.** **Psalm 103:12** **As far as the east is from the west, So far hath he removed our transgressions from us.** **Psalm 103:13** **Like as a father pitieth his children, So the LORD pitieth them that fear him.** **Psalm 103:14** **For he knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.** **Psalm 103:15** **As for man, his days are as grass: As a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.** **Psalm 103:16** **For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; And the place thereof shall know it no more.** **Psalm 103:17** **But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, And his righteousness unto children's children;**

So, **how much** does forgiveness forgive?

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All in between almost nothing

Let's walk through this passage step-by-step:

Step 1: David had sinned!

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

2 Samuel 12:9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, **to do evil in his sight?** thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**

Step 2: David had sinned:

➤ Against God's goodness

2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. **Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; 2 Samuel 12:8** And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

➤ Against God's commands

2 Samuel 12:9 **Wherefore** hast thou **despised the commandment of the LORD**, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

➤ Against God Himself

2 Samuel 12:10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; **because thou hast despised me**, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

Step 3: David's sin brought / incurred consequences!

2 Samuel 12:10 **Now therefore** the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. **2 Samuel 12:11** **Thus saith the LORD**, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

Step 4: David confessed his sin

2 Samuel 12:13 **And David said** unto Nathan, **I have sinned against the LORD.** And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

1 John 1:9 If we confess (ὁμολογῶμεν) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confess = to say the same thing as / to agree with

What do / should we make of these “confessions?”

1 Samuel 15:24 **And Saul said** unto Samuel, **I have sinned**: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

Matthew 27:3 **Then Judas**, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, **repented himself**, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Matthew 27:4 **Saying, I have sinned** in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

2 Samuel 12:13 assumes Ps. 51 and Ps. 32

Step 5: Our gracious & merciful God forgives David – the man

2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. **And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.**

David didn't die or lose his kingdom, like Saul.

Step 6: Forgiveness forgives _____, but not all consequences!

- **Uriah didn't come back to life**
- **The past itself was not removed / or gotten back**

- **The enemies of God used this to blaspheme**

- **The child died**

- **David's own family & children caused David immense grief**

2 Samuel 12:11 **Thus saith the LORD**, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. **2 Samuel 12:12** For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

Was this a case of judicial blindness? Where God simply removes our ability to

2 Samuel 13:21 But when king David heard of all these things, **he was very wroth**.

2 Samuel 13:37 But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. **And David mourned for his son every day.** **2 Samuel 13:38** So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, **and was there three years.** **2 Samuel 13:39** **And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.**

1 Kings 1:5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. **1 Kings 1:6** **And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying**, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; **and his mother bare him after Absalom.**

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.