

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

How God Pardons Sinners

Romans 3:23-31

Introduction: This passage in Romans focuses on *how* God pardons sinners. John addressed the question, "How can a just, holy and unchangeable God pardon someone's sin against Him?"

Answer: Through Jesus Christ, God, and man, substituting Himself in our place as an atoning sacrifice. Jesus' work alone is the basis of the worst and best person's salvation – we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

Redeemer Church [Statement of Faith](#)

Article IV – Of the Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is entirely of grace (Eph 2:5; Matt 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor 3:5-7; Acts 15:11), through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God (John 3:16; John 1:1-14; Heb 4:14; Heb 12:24), Jesus Christ our Lord. By the appointment of the Father, He freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin (Phil 2:6-7; Heb 2:9, 14; 2 Cor 5:21). He honored the divine law by His personal obedience (Isa 42:21; Phil 2:8; Gal 4:4-5; Rom 3:21), and by His substitutionary death made a full atonement for our sins (Isa 53:4-5; Matt 20:28; Rom 4:25; Rom 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 1 John 2:2; 1 Cor 15:1-3; Heb 9:13-15). He rose from the dead, and is now enthroned in heaven (Heb 1:8; Heb 3; Heb 8:1; Col 3:1-4). Jesus unites in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections and is qualified in every way to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior (Heb 7:25; Col 2:9; Heb 2:18; Heb 7:26; Ps 89:19; Ps 14).

Questions

1. Do you tend to view God as a mean, frowning deity? Do you struggle with the idea of God's wrath? How does this passage and John's sermon help you consider God's holiness in a new way?

Consider this quote from John's sermon: "The Bible starts with God at the center. Our mentality is different because we start with us...at the center of the universe. Everything is viewed through the lens of personal independence and human rights. Things that we deem unjust are unjust because they don't accord with the laws of our personal universe."

2. What would change about your life if you more consistently lived with the perspective that God is at the center of the universe, not you?
3. Christian, because of the person and work of Christ, there is no record of debt left against you (Colossians 2:13-14). Zip, zero, nada, none. What would change about your daily life if you more consistently lived with gratitude for this amazing gift? What are practical ways you can keep the gospel front and center in your mind as hope and fuel for your life?

Consider this quote from John's sermon: "Be reminded, church, that the law is not bad. God set up the rules from His own character. The law is right and good because God is right and good." John's comment is based on Romans 3:27-31.

John cited these passages from Psalms:

- **Ps. 119:97** "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.
- **Ps. 19:9-10** "...the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb."

Since Jesus has perfectly kept the law and God credits His obedience to our account, the law now has no condemning power in the life of a believer. For the Christian then, the law is a gift from God, revealing His character and showing us in detail how we can love Him and others.

4. **Do you think of God's law as the psalmist does? Do you view God's Word, including God's commands, as gifts to you? How can we exhort and encourage one another to love God's Word as an extension of who He is?**