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Week 5 – Forgiven, but Not Really?

Introduction

1 John 1:9
1 John 2:12

Two “Streams” of Forgiveness?

No! We are forgiven...both judicially and relationally through the cross.

Major Errors of Early Gnostic Dualism:

1. The _____ realm is good and pure...
2. The _____ realm is evil and corrupt...

1 John 1:1
1 John 4:3
1 John 1:3-4
1 John 1:5-7
1 John 1:8

John Confronts Two Major False Teachings:

1. Jesus was non-_____ (vs. 1-4)
2. Sin is a non-_____ (vs. 5-10)

Confession means...

1. To say the _____ thing as
2. To _____ with God

Romans 6:14

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. What is the definition of “confession?” Explain in your own words why confession of sin to God is about humility rather than forgiveness...
2. What do you think is the difference between a “godly sorrow that brings repentance” (2 Cor. 7:10-11) and a “guilty feeling of condemnation”?

Ponderings:

3. As Bible-believing Christians, many of the practices we hold on to are unfortunately more rooted in religious traditions than in New Covenant life. In what way(s) does the issue of confessing sin demonstrate this?
4. Read the following sampling of verses that affirm our total forgiveness of all sin as a past-tense, eternal reality: Eph. 4:32; Col. 2:13-14; Heb. 7:27; 9:26; 10:18.

Why are these objective realities incompatible with any subjective compulsion to “ask God for forgiveness?” Discuss...

When we fail to understand the objective reality of our total forgiveness in Christ, how can this negatively affect our subjective experience of the love and joy Jesus desires for us?

5. Catholic believers are taught to trust in a “penance-based” system of forgiveness. Early Jewish Christians struggled with breaking away from a “Temple-based” system of forgiveness. Likewise, many Protestants practice as “word-based” system of forgiveness.

At the end of the day, what do all of these systems have in common and why do they fall short of the New Covenant we have in Christ?

Promptings:

6. In the week ahead, if you realize you've sinned in thought, word or deed – rather than “asking God to forgive you” – try to re-direct your thoughts to worship and gratefulness for His once-for-all sacrifice securing your total forgiveness. Then, confess (agree with God about) the foolishness of that sin. Express to Him how sorry you are and ask Him to help you abide in Him and walk by the Spirit, believing His promise that when you do these things, you will bear fruit and walk in victory over the flesh.