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Week 3 – A New Past (Totally Forgiveness)

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### **Introduction:**

“Covenant” = *An agreement or arrangement between God and people*  
Old Covenant lasted from Moses to Jesus’ Death– conditional, law-based  
New Covenant was inaugurated at Jesus’s Death – unconditional, grace-based

### **What Does It Mean to be Part of This New Covenant Community?**

The Church = *EKKLESIA* (called out community)

Ref. Ezekiel 36:25 – I will cleanse you from all your impurities...

The starting place for the New Covenant is God’s total forgiveness of us

### **Understanding Total Forgiveness**

Ref. 1 John 1:9

The false-beliefs of the Gnostics:

1. Jesus was not really \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sin does not really \_\_\_\_\_

Gnostic Dualism: They claimed that matter is \_\_\_\_\_ and spirit is \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 1:1-4 confronts the first false-belief, that Jesus wasn’t human

1 John 1:5-9 confronts the second false-belief, that sin doesn’t exist

1 John 2:1-2 transitions to the true believers in the church...

Atoning Sacrifice = “Propitiation” (Full satisfaction of God’s anger against sin)

**Conclusion:** How does a forgiven person live? As a forgiving person...in gratefulness and godliness.

### **Some Additional New Covenant Promises on Forgiveness...**

Jesus’ death put the New Covenant into effect (Heb. 9:16, 22)

The New Covenant makes us holy (Heb. 10:8-10)

Jesus’ sacrifice cleansed us once, not repeatedly (Heb. 10:1-3; 1 Peter 3:18)

Jesus took away all our sins at once (Heb. 9:26-28, 10:4-5; 1 John 3:5)

Jesus has already forgiven all our sin (Heb. 10:17-18; Col. 2:13-14; Eph. 4:32)

## **SMALL GROUP Q'S**

### **Personal Life:**

1. Did you grow up in a tradition that linked your regular confession of sin to God's forgiveness? If so, how did this have a bearing on your daily relationship with God? Based on the weekend message, can you see why confession is a good thing for walking in agreement with God, but that it is not about getting "more forgiveness" from Him? Share your thoughts...

### **Ponderings:**

2. Simply understanding these wonderful truths about total forgiveness is one thing, but living by them is another! Can you think of a relationship in your life where God's total forgiveness of you empowered you to forgive someone else? If you are willing, feel free to share...
3. As a group, read through the following verses about New Covenant forgiveness, and discuss whether there is anything that you'd never considered before about the reality of total forgiveness in Christ...
  - Jesus' death put the New Covenant into effect* (Heb. 9:16, 22)
  - The New Covenant makes us holy* (Heb. 10:8-10)
  - Jesus' sacrifice cleansed us once, not repeatedly* (Heb. 10:1-3; 1 Peter 3:18)
  - Jesus took away all our sins at once* (Heb. 9:26-28, 10:4-5; 1 John 3:5)
  - Jesus has already forgiven all our sin* (Heb. 10:17-18; Col. 2:13-14; Eph. 4:32)
4. If God's New Covenant Community truly embraced and lived in profound gratefulness for the total forgiveness we've received, how might this impact Christian marriages? Friendships? Parent-child relationships?
5. Why do you think that God's New Covenant is built the foundation of our total forgiveness, cleansing and security in Christ?

### **Promptings:**

6. How then shall we live? In other words...as totally forgiven people who have been made clean and pure and holy through the death of Jesus in our place, how exactly are we empowered to live at a whole new quality of life? Are you drawing spiritual and emotional resources from these realities by faith each day?