

The Power of Forgiveness

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Three truths that will unleash the power of forgiveness in your life.

I. Everything you **DO** arises out of who you **ARE**.

A. Who are you, Christian?

Romans 12:2 NIV — Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ephesians 4:20-24 NIV — You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

B. You can't say "**NO**" to your essential nature.

II. **ALL** your **SINS** have been forgiven.

A. "**ALL** means **ALL** and that's **ALL ALL Means!**"

1 Peter 3:18 NIV — For Christ died for sins once for **ALL**, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

1 John 1:7 NIV — But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from **ALL sin**.

Romans 6:10 NIV — The death he died, he died to sin once for **ALL**; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Hebrews 7:27 NIV — Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for **ALL** when he offered himself.

Hebrews 9:26 NIV — Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for **ALL** at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 9:27,28 NIV Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed **once** to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

B. Even when you don't **FEEL** like it!

Jeremiah 17:9 NIV — The heart is deceitful above **all** things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

III. The real you is **NEW** (in Christ).

A. You're essential being has been radically **CHANGED!**

II Corinthians 5:17 NIV — Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

John 3:5-7 NIV — Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'"

B. Your true **IDENTITY** will affect how you live. You are...

1. Child of God. — **1 John 3:1-2 NIV** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

2. A Saint of God. — **Ephesians 1:1 NIV** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus.

3. God's Righteousness. — **II Corinthians 5:21 NIV** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Righteous and Holy. — **Ephesians 4:24 NIV** ... and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

5. God's Workmanship. — **Ephesians 2:10 NIV** For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

6. Chosen, Royal Priesthood & Holy Nation. — **1 Peter 2:9 NIV** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

7. New Creation. — **II Corinthians 5:17 NIV** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
