

# FORGIVENESS

*for the Christian?*

Date: 10.18.09

Teaching Guide

Passage: I John 1:4-2:2

Have you ever prayed that God would forgive your sins after you became a Christian? But didn't Jesus take-on and didn't God forgive all of your sins on the basis of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus? Do you, as a Christian, still have to keep tabs on your sinful choices in order to get forgiven? What if you don't remember a sinful act or don't ask in a right way, are you not forgiven? But does this mean that a Christian can live anyway he or she wants? After all, they are forgiven... right? Today we will continue the teaching called: "Forgiveness... for the Christian?" that will help you think through this issue that has so many followers of Jesus confused.

I. What is the Apostle John saying?

- A. The basis of our need for forgiveness – 1:4-5
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ response – v.6
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ response – v.7
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ response – v.8
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ response – v.9
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ response – v.10
- G. The basis for our hope of forgiveness – 2:1-2

II. How does this relate to us today?

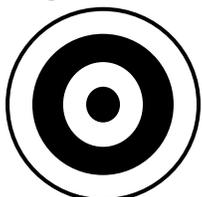
- A. How you respond to sin \_\_\_\_\_ your fellowship with God.
- B. Christians do not confess their sins in order to \_\_\_\_\_ forgiven, but \_\_\_\_\_ confess their sins \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ forgiven.
- C. My \_\_\_\_\_ with God rests on the ability of Jesus to defend me before the Father on the \_\_\_\_\_ of what \_\_\_\_\_ has done in my place and on my behalf.

## Think About It

4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 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 cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

I John 1: 4-2:2

**Target Practice:** Use this resource to dig deeper in your personal or family devotions during the week.



In what ways were people dismissing taking sin seriously in their lives?

What should be/will be the attitude of a follower of Jesus to times of sinful living?

Discuss how I John 2:1-2 fits in the overall argument that John is presenting.

As a Christian, on what is the foundation on which your fellowship with God rests?

Go to <http://forgodsname.org/resources/gracetalk/> to submit a question for next week.