

# Forgiveness

## Payback Mode

### Discuss It:

We all have our little ways of trying to “payback” God for our sins.  
Discuss ways in which you try to make amends or payback for your sins.

### Dig In:

#### A Seed of Doubt

For many \_\_\_\_\_ a seed of doubt remains that all their sins are really forgiven, that God is genuinely not holding anything \_\_\_\_\_ them.

When asked about God’s \_\_\_\_\_ many people reply “I hope so,” or “I guess we really don’t know until the end.”

Until we are sure, until we settle the issue of forgiveness once and for all, two things will always be true. First we will never have much \_\_\_\_\_ when we petition our heavenly Father. We will always feel that God is holding something against us.

Second, we will put others on the same \_\_\_\_\_ we put ourselves on. Since we are always trying to do something to ensure our forgiveness, we will subconsciously \_\_\_\_\_ others to perform to gain our forgiveness.

We will have a tendency to remind others of their \_\_\_\_\_ and their need to make up for them in some way.

#### Payback Mode

Payback mode is when we allow ourselves to fall into the mode of expecting \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for sin.

In payback mode we know about God’s forgiveness, but, we fail to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves of God’s forgiveness.

A Christian who functions in \_\_\_\_\_ mode is like a

person who wins a new car but refuses to drive it. Owning the new car does not accomplish for the owner, its intended purpose, until they drive it.

## Atonement for Sin

God has given us instructions on how we are receive his forgiveness. The key to God's forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_.

In the Old Testament, a person brought his sacrifice, and as a picture of atonement, placed his \_\_\_\_\_ on its \_\_\_\_\_, as it was sacrificed. Thus, he identified with the dying animal. (Leviticus 1:4)

The point of \_\_\_\_\_ for the New Testament Christians is \_\_\_\_\_. Perhaps a better word is trust. To make God's gift of forgiveness our own, we must exercise faith. We must trust Him to apply His work through Christ to our account.

## Forgiven is Forgiven

Every time we play the time game or whatever games we play with God, we are \_\_\_\_\_ our backs on His means of ensuring our forgiveness and creating our own. What is worse, we are abandoning a system of \_\_\_\_\_ for a system of \_\_\_\_\_.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, whether it is by depriving ourselves of something or doing more than simple faith requires (which is simply trust) we treat God as if He requires some \_\_\_\_\_ for our sin. We act as if a demonstration of our sorrow earns forgiveness for us. We may feel better about ourselves when we demonstrate our sorrow in some way, but self-punishment has nothing to do with God's willingness to forgive. Every time we consciously or subconsciously work out some \_\_\_\_\_ with God in regard to sin, we are abandoning His way for our way.

If we have placed our trust in God's system of forgiveness, we live in a \_\_\_\_\_ state. From God's perspective, that means there is no difference between the sins we have committed, are committing, and will commit. Remember forgiven is forgiven

Romans 5:20–21, tells us there is always more \_\_\_\_\_ than there is sin. Regardless of what is done or how many times it is done, it is already \_\_\_\_\_ by God’s grace. God considers it paid for in view of Christ’s death. To work out our system of merit is to say that God’s grace is not sufficient for our sin, that He needs our \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with our sin.

We find it difficult not to do something on our behalf. We are quick to give lip service to concepts such as “forgiveness comes through faith” and “we can do nothing to merit forgiveness,” but when it comes down to everyday living we revert to a \_\_\_\_\_ plus \_\_\_\_\_ system.

Next week “Understanding the Nature of Grace”

Portions of this lesson have been gleaned from “The Gift of Forgiveness” by Charles Stanley