



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

"I know God forgives! I just need to forgive myself!" Have you ever heard someone make this statement or one similar? It reveals our lack of understanding about God. Man can't forgive themselves! We never could and never will. That's sinful pride at best. Forgiveness lay only with God! Sin is terrible in the eyes of God and He doesn't take our sins lightly. When one comes to God with a humble heart, seeking His face through the Lord Jesus Christ, forgiveness is given. **"To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood."** (Rev. 1:5) People play so many games with forgiveness. Psychologists and the professionals have duped us into believing that we can forgive ourselves. The world has more impact on our thinking many times than God and His word. Let's be honest. What one is really saying when they can't *"forgive themselves"* is *"I don't want to be forgiven. I don't want to hear that God loves me. I want to be free of Him and want no ties."* That's rather straight forward, but that is what that statement is making. **Forgiveness lies with God only!**

"Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." (Rom. 8:34) What happens many times is we feed our own sinful ways by claiming we must forgive ourselves. As a result, guilt eats us from the inside and we slowly drift off into our own world of ideas about God, while never finding freedom from sin because we don't turn to the Lord. Guilt and shame batter our hearts but we stubbornly refuse our God. What is needed is to be confronted by God with our sins. Our fears and lack of faith keep us from doing that. We don't want to be confronted because of the hurt, which is already killing us, and we become afraid it might cause us greater pain. We simply don't know our heavenly Father!!! We read our Bibles, but we receive little help, except for the fact that we read our Bible! Let me ask, is it God we are really seeking? Do we really want to know Him and His ways?

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them," He then says, **'And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.'**" (Heb. 10:16-17) There is God's covenant with the humble, repentant one who seeks His face through the death of Jesus. What we don't realize is God wants to forgive. Just look at Jesus for that. We have no power or ability to forgive ourselves! Forgiveness is found only in Christ when we are confronted with God Himself. Think about it!!!

Brent