



Ashland Church of Christ 2006

# Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God



“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

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## I Am A Sinner — Acceptance Can God Really Forgive Me?

Text: 1John 1:9

**Key Text:** *1John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

### Introduction:

- 1) People (perhaps all of us) often look to their past with deep regret of some seemingly large sin and wonder if God will really forgive them.
- 2) Look at these lessons in two ways:
  - a) What can God do for mankind?
  - b) What can man do to one another?

### I. Principles of forgiveness.

- A. Biblical forgiveness should be unending (Matthew 18:21-22).
- B. Biblical forgiveness should be educational (Matthew 5:12).
- C. Biblical forgiveness should be rewarding (Matthew 6:14-15).

### II. Patterns of forgiveness.

- A. Jesus — A great example of giving forgiveness (Matthew 9:1-8).
- B. Paul — A great example of needing forgiveness.
- C. You and me—the same great need; the same determination of Paul?

### III. Prerequisites to forgiveness.

- A. Acceptance (Romans 2:23; 6:23).
- B. Sincerity (equality) (Matthew 18:21-22).
  - 1. Matthew 6:14-15.
  - 2. Mark 11:25.
  - 3. Luke 6:37.
- C. Repentance (Luke 17:3-4).

### IV. Products of forgiveness.

- A. From God, it ends with a saved soul in His presence (Matthew 6:14).
- B. Among the church, it provides better relationships and peace of mind.
- C. Among the world, it shows people understanding, gentleness, and compassion.
  - 1. 2Timothy 2:24.
  - 2. Titus 3:1-2.

### V. Purposes of forgiveness.

- A. The first answer is because God said to do it.
- B. Forgiveness shows sincerity and understanding.
- C. When we forgive others, God forgives us — forgiveness brings about forgiveness (Mark 11:25-26).

#### Conclusion:

- 1) Consider the contrast of Peter and Judas:
  - a) Similar sins with very different outcomes.
  - b) What was the difference? Peter was able to forgive himself and knew that God could forgive him.
- 2) Therefore, the question of this lesson is not ‘Can God really forgive me?’
- 3) The more pressing question is: ‘Can I forgive myself?’